



Canada Border
Services Agency

Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada



Enforcement Report

CBSA Vancouver International Airport

March 2016



PROTECTION • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

Canada

VIA ENFORCEMENT REPORT #72

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DISTRICT SUMMARY

We only made 81 seizures in March but [redacted] had a stellar month with 19 seizures, almost a quarter of the district total. Significant drug seizures were of opium [redacted] methamphetamine [redacted] and ecstasy [redacted], also being exported. We also seized marijuana being exported and made four proceeds of crime seizures, as well as 33 level one and two currency seizures. On the commodity side, [redacted] officers found 180 cartons of cigarettes

NARCOTICS

On March 4, **Dominique Albert** intercepted 2.6 kilograms of marijuana being exported [redacted] The shipment was declared as flower tea and was sent from an individual in [redacted] to an individual in [redacted]. Upon examination, the shipment contained a box containing four individual boxes, which contained six metallic canisters of tea. [redacted] Twenty-four packages were seized.



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Manvir Moore seized 1000 mg of steroids
on March 6

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Two ascertained forfeitures were made by **Glen McKay** on two UPS shipments of Dehydroepiandrosterone, aka DHEA, on March 16. Both were EDI referrals. The first shipment, contained two 30ml bottles of DHEA. The second shipment, contained one 30ml bottle and 120 capsules.

On March 18, **Mori Favor** examined a UPS shipment from declared as an that had been referred by **Ryan Seller**. Inside the shipment was actually 235.8 grams of cannabis shatter. A no case seizure was made against the exporter.

Drugs from Iraq again. Clive Shepard examined a DHL shipment on March 21 that was described as

boards 1

Clive found opium-soaked foam

The total amount of opium extracted from the foam boards was 7.25kg.

On March 29, while conducting export exams at FedEx with Supt. **Jag Johal** and **Chris Chand**, **Jordan Smyth** examined a shipment declared as :



with a declared value of \$180. The shipment was sent from and was destined to an individual in . The shipment contained a

but upon closer examination (two large bricks of methamphetamine were discovered. Both lonscans and a methamphetamine NIK swab were positive. A total of 2.18 kilograms of methamphetamine were seized.

WEAPONS

On March 31, **Robert Sze** referred a man . The man made a nil declaration but, upon examination, **Martina Li** discovered a black flashlight/stun gun. When asked why he did not declare any weapons, the man's rather shallow excuse was that he didn't think it was categorized as a weapon as it does not fire electrodes like Tasers . hence he thought it was fine to carry with him.

Uh, no. The stun gun was seized.

PORNOGRAPHY / CHILD ABUSE IMAGES

Sowmith Katragadda

March 20, SK was radioed by Supt. **Dhar Pahal** to escort to Secondary

On

Meanwhile, an examination revealed \$10,261.42 in Canadian and Chinese currency, seven cartons of cigarettes, and suspected child porn and bestiality . was immediately arrested for smuggling child pornography and for the outstanding warrant. A level one seizure was made on the currency and six of the seven cartons. RCMP attended and took custody of and his electronics.

On the 27th, **Gabriela Matamoros** examined a _____ man returning with his family. While examining his electronics, multiple pornographic videos were found on the man's phone, one of which appeared to be child pornography. The man was arrested. RCMP declined to pursue charges but the phone was still seized. Also, _____ as requested by PRIES. Assisting Gabriela with this seizure were **Patrick Lai** and **David Lee**.

ARRESTS / WARRANTS

On the morning of March 4, USCBP called for us to pick up _____ who tried to return to the US but was the subject of an outstanding BC-wide warrant for breach of probation. **Amy Wainwright** and **Dave Rosales** were dispatched to USCBP where _____ was

_____ An indices check revealed two convictions in Canada,

Amy arrested _____ and turned her over to RCMP.

On March 10, _____ arrived on _____ using last-minute third party-purchased tickets due to an alleged family emergency. He is wanted on an active BC-wide warrant

_____ was arrested by **Andrew Suitner** for the Canadian warrant and transferred to Richmond RCMP.

On March 16, **Fazila Hussain** arrested _____ who had returned _____ was a lookout for a warrant for theft under \$5000. After her arrest, RCMP took her into custody.

On the 31st, _____ arriving _____ was referred to secondary as a Caution Victor. Indices checks revealed that he had an outstanding BC-wide warrant _____ and _____ was arrested by **Derek Winter**. Richmond RCMP responded and took custody of _____

CURRENCY / PROCEEDS OF CRIME

While roving post-security on March 7, **Vinesh Purewal** encountered a _____ man who was en route _____

_____ He actually had the equivalent of **\$25,933.22**, which was seized at level two.

As a result of a lookout, _____ March 9 was referred for examination. _____ seeking entry for 40 days to go to Victoria. He told **Rosana Ma** that he had less than \$10,000 however it was discovered that he actually had the equivalent of \$17,287.34 in assorted currencies.



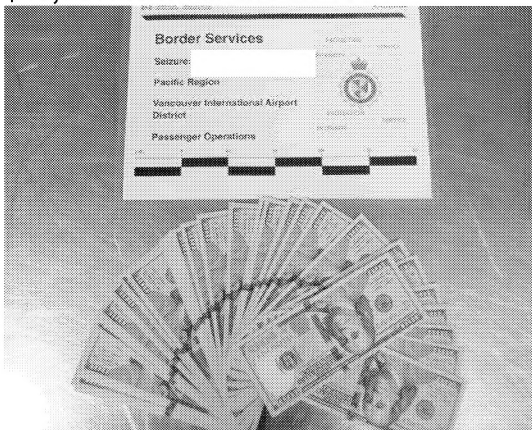
The **\$17,287** was seized as Suspected Proceeds of Crime and the man was found to be inadmissible due to misrepresentation on his TRV for not disclosing criminal convictions for gambling and assault. He was Allowed to Leave and departed, while his wife continued on to Victoria.

Rahim Bajwa examined an unemployed Rohit Toor.

woman on March 18 who had been referred by

\$10,387.20 when she arrived

This lack of income didn't stop her from carrying



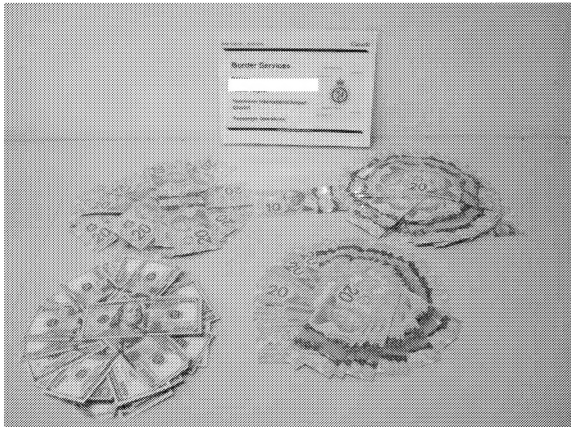
when told the money was being seized as Suspected Proceeds of Crime. She simply said that she did not take the exchange into account when completing her E311.

On March 24, a man travelling with his wife on was roved by **Attila Szalay**. They both said that they were under the reporting threshold, but when asked to produce his currency the man opened his LV bag and attempt to conceal an envelope containing Canadian currency. He then presented a bundle of US and Canadian currency. A verification revealed he was over the



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reporting threshold.

. Due to the inability to legitimize the origin of the currency, a total of **\$11,746.70** was seized as suspected proceeds of crime.

The next two were the largest currency seizures in March. First, on the 28th, **Navi Toor** roved a man in the jetway just before departed. The man said he had not made a currency report but admitted to having currency over the reporting threshold, however he could not reasonably explain why he did not report it. He was found to have **\$54,395**, which was seized at level one. The \$250 terms of release was paid and the man was allowed to proceed on his flight.

The big one of March was made by **Aman Bhalru** on the 29th. Aman roved a woman returning. She made a nil declaration and when approached at the carousel she said she only had \$1000 with her, and continued this assertion in Secondary. Once she realized that her bags would be searched, she said that she had a bit more money. A baggage exam revealed US\$71,000 and CA\$1150.

Her **\$95,359** was seized at level two

SEIZURES

Again On March 11, **Tracey Skelton** was rummaging the ware- house and selected a large wooden crate for examination. The shipment was declared as

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although it appeared to have been already released, Tracey wanted to verify the contents. She opened the crate finding Tracey removed

In total, 180 cartons were seized.

David Williams made a seizure on March 31. Ger

the \$923 shipment was seized with no terms of release.

IMMIGRATION

Deemed deport. On February 3, a man arrived on for a 30-day vacation in Vancouver and Calgary. He claimed that this was his first time in Canada He was on a one-way ticket purchased the week before and was extremely vague when asked to provide details regarding his life in

GCMS revealed that the man was actually issued a deportation order for a conviction for failing to comply with a court order. He then failed to depart Canada. Upon examining the man's cell phone, Ivan Ho found text messages indicating that the man had been working in Canada

He was detained as a deemed deport.



No work permit x2. Also on the third, a _____ man and woman sought entry for 180 days to travel around the Vancouver area and also to Nanaimo and possibly Toronto.

When **Carolina Escobar** asked how she managed to get six months off work, the woman admitted that she had quit her job. Examination of the man's luggage revealed a notebook containing handwritten instructions for visiting Canada. Some of these statements included: "Convince an immigration officer that I have ties back home (work, properties, money); Convince an immigration officer that I will leave Canada at the end of my stay; Proof of finances that can support his time in Canada". A cell phone exam revealed messages between the man and a friend in Toronto that he was coming to Vancouver to work _____

He then admitted that he was going to work for his reception, _____

An exclusion order was issued by MD **Preet Bhuller** and the two departed on **John Kirkbride** gets a pair of assists for the referrals.

No work permit, no PR visa. On the 4th, **David Miller** referred a _____ woman _____ who was seeking entry for 184 days to spend time with family. The woman had neither a travel itinerary nor any knowledge of Canada. She told **Rahim Bajwa** she was on leave from her job _____

but when Rahim told her that would be contacting her employer, she let it slip that her employer may say she has resigned. Through further questioning, the woman admitted to quitting her job just before leaving for Canada. A shipping document was found in her baggage which showed she had shipped some belongings to Calgary. Her reception said that the woman will be living with him and his family but eventually admitted that the woman will be looking after his children. He said that she also looked after his children in Canada for six weeks last July. The woman admitted to being here to work and was subsequently excluded.

No work permit. Two days later, an _____ man arrived from _____

He was seeking entry for 180 days and became nervous during questioning but he could not explain why. He then told **Robert Sze** that he wished to only stay for one month. When asked why he purchased tickets with _____

a six-month return date, the man said his travel agent advised him to purchase them. He then decided he only wanted to stay for one week! A bag exam revealed an envelope containing the man's high school transcripts, security guard certificate, first aid certificate, driving operator certificate, divorce application package, parents' marriage certificate(?), and his _____ citizenship certificate. When asked why he had all these documents, the man's brilliant reply was that they were in his luggage. He later admitted he was bringing them to obtain _____ to work _____

When asked if he was aware he requires a work permit to work in Canada _____ he said _____
He too was excluded.

No PR visa. On March 8, an _____ woman on a one-way ticket arrived on _____ seeking entry for 90 days. She said she was planning to stay with her boyfriend whom she met playing World of Warcraft online two months earlier. She had no money and had quit her job two weeks prior. When **Nathan** _____



Klement asked her if she was travelling with everything she owned, she said yes, except for some clothing and books. She had earlier texted her mother, "and I broke up. And I'm moving to Canada". She was excluded and departed **Rahim Bajwa** made the referral.

No PR visa. Also on the 8th, a man arrived from seek-
ing entry for 21 days to rock climb and visit his ex-girlfriend. His previous work
permit expired in 2014 and he claimed he departed Canada after his work permit
expired and this was his first time back. **Tayo Sowunmi** sent him back. In

Secondary, **Bik Garcha** examined the man's mobile phone and found numerous deleted emails, including Fido and BC Hydro invoices dated 2016, and emails from the man stating he would be leaving Canada in January 2016 and returning in March. When Bik confronted the man with this information, the man was adamant he did not overstay. Emails also revealed invoices as recently as October. When presented with this evidence, the man insisted that the timestamps on the

emails were incorrect. He finally confessed that he had stayed for two months after his work permit expired, later amending that statement to four months. Finally he said he stayed more than seven months after his permit expired. He was excluded.

No work permit. The next exclusion was made on a wom-
an March 10. She arrived on seeking entry for 21 days to visit a friend.
unemployed woman has been here numerous times and when **Aman Bhalru** asked
about her last trip it seems that she stayed in Canada for two years illegally. She

eventually admitted that she has been working for the two years

She admitted that she was back to resume her job. She departed on that night.

No work permit. Then, on the 11th, a man sought entry for
90 days to visit his sister. He was previously in Canada for five months in 2015. He
was carrying only \$70. He was evasive regarding what he did when he was in Can-
ada last year and somewhat vague regarding his plans for this trip. He told **Daniel**

Lurie that he was unsure of the duration of trip, saying that if he "felt comfortable" he may stay longer. He admitted that he had worked

His reception was questioned about his visit last year

and ultimately admitted that the man had worked "a few days" ;
 cluded and departed the same day

The man was ex-

No work permit, or, this guy got a visa? Two exclusions on the 12th, beginning with a man seeking entry for 20 days to visit Vancouver and Victoria. He was on a one-way cash-paid ticket purchased three days prior. He said he knew no one here and had nowhere to stay. He said he would ask people on the street to help him find a place to stay and for suggestions on what to do in Canada (how he planned to identify such people was never revealed). He had only \$150 and had left behind two dependent daughters. During the bag exam, **Darren Lal** found the man's C.V., credentials and prior work history. The man finally admitted to coming to look for a construction job. He knew he needed a permit but decided to come anyway. An exclusion order was issued and the man's same-day departure was confirmed. In a moment of extreme hubris, while being detained he asked MD **Amy Wainwright** if she would help him get a job in Canada.

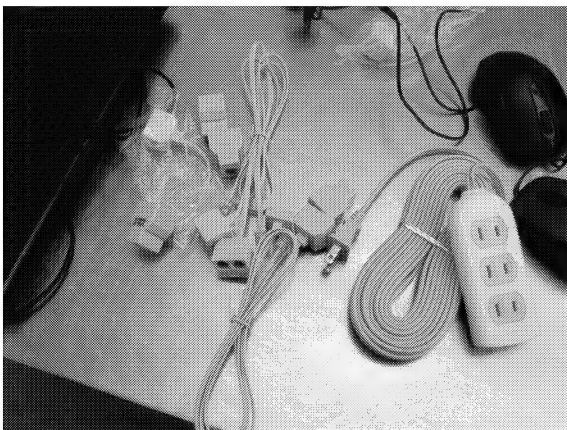
No work permit. Then a woman sought entry for 90 days. She was referred to Secondary courtesy of John Kirkbride. The woman's reception said he did not know the woman, however his parents knew her and suggested he host her. He could not provide any other details about the woman, other than saying he purchased her tickets and that she would be staying with him. **Preet Bhuller** then asked the woman how she knew her reception. She said she was introduced to him by a friend. After further examination the woman revealed that she was coming to Canada. An exclusion order was issued and the woman left on the morning of March 13.

Who works illegally

On the 13th,



man was DARTed at the gate by **Brennan Loy**. In Secondary, the man told **Jeff Toh** that he was here to visit a friend in Calgary. His reception, however, said that the man told him he was coming to find work. Upon questioning it was found that the man has been living since 2004 and has worked and lived there illegally for at last seven years. He said that he is here to find work and to seek a better life in Canada. He was planning to bring his wife to Canada also. He admitted that he will work here without authorization, and to working and living illegally. An exclusion order was issued and the man departed later that day.



There were no exclusions on March 14, however rovers identified a Lion Travel tour group of 41 going to such out-of-the-way places as Hope and Golden. Thirty were referred to Secondary. All had Canadian currency, either \$2000 or \$3000, in a marked envelopes that they said was given to them, and some had telecommunication equipment. Some lacked knowledge regarding their supposed employment

Twenty-five were found inadmissible and were allowed to withdraw.



No PR visa. On March 16, a _____ man _____ told PIL officer **Alena Yook** that he was here for 28 days to visit friends in Saskatchewan. In Secondary, **Bryce McRae** conducted a media exam, revealing a text message saying the man was coming to begin a new life in Canada. He denied this but later admitted that he had quit his job and was coming to Canada to work.

_____ An exclusion order was issued. He spent the night at VCJ then departed _____ on _____ March 17.

No PR visa. On March 17, a _____ resident holder _____ sought entry for 89 days to visit her brother in Toronto. When asked for her brother's contact information, she said she had not spoken to him in six years and did not have his phone number. Nor had she booked a flight from _____. When **Attila Szalay** asked her what she would do in Vancouver, she said she would try to stay at the YMCA (hopefully she meant the YWCA). Her ticket to Vancouver was booked two days prior to travel and she had five pieces of luggage. A baggage exam revealed excessive clothing, personal documents, and household goods. When asked about her living situation, she admitted that she had to move all of her belongings out of her rental unit and that she was travelling with everything she owned. When asked if she had any friends or family _____, the woman said "*I don't have anyone*". A review of her documents revealed that she is unemployed and collects welfare. An exclusion order issued by MD **Manvir Moore**. The PIL referral was by **Paul Uljevic**.

No work permit. A very entertaining exclusion was had by **Mark Simpson** on March 18. Mark roved a _____ man _____ who was seeking entry for 100 days to attend a program at SFU. Examination of the man's luggage revealed, as well as his clothing, women's clothing, lingerie, massagers, personal lubricants and condoms. The man claimed that they belonged to his friend "Denise". Examination of the man's electronic device not only verified his relationship with Denise, it also revealed numerous emails and searches on Craigslist for room rentals in Vancouver and Richmond. The man claimed that he wanted to see what the rentals are like in case he wants to stay for six months. When asked why he was considering staying six months when his E311 card only said 100 days, he claimed that as he is *allowed* to stay for six months. This was also why he purchased a one-way ticket. When asked what would happen if his money ran out, he said that he would work _____, like he did the last time he was here. When asked to elaborate, he said that he ran out of money and found work _____. He said he intended to contact the same company he had worked for previously. He said that if there was no work available with them, he would check the classified ads and search online for employers. He said he did not obtain a work permit because it is hard for companies to hire foreign workers because they must first offer jobs to Canadians. It is much easier to just show up and work illegally. Not surprisingly, the man was excluded for working without authorization.

No work permit. On the 19th, **William Itakura** referred a _____ man _____ who was seeking entry for five days to visit a friend whom he met two years ago _____. He could not say where or how they met however. He travelled on a third-party ticket paid for by his reception, however his reception was unable to _____



explain why he would do so. **Derek Winter** examined the man's cell phone and found numerous messages regarding work in a restaurant owned by his reception, which the reception denied. His cell phone also contained his employment credentials, catalogues of pizza ovens, and sample menus. Text messages regarding beginning work in Canada were also discovered. The man denied being here to work however could not explain the messages on his phone. Upon further questioning, the reception said his father was planning to open a pizzeria in Canada. He later recanted his statements and decided they did *not* have a business in Canada. When it was suggested that he was here to work, the man said, "yes, okay...I go back to . . . no problem." No problem either for MD **Manvir Moore**, who issued an exclusion order.

No PR visa, misrepresentation. On the 24th, a . . . woman . . . sought entry for 60 days but during an examination she told **Rahim Bajwa** that she would be staying only 10 days. She had no itinerary nor was she able to name any places she would be visiting. The unemployed woman said she would be staying with relatives in Vancouver who would arrange her travel plans. She had previously visited the UK for four months, then after returning to . . . she stayed just one day, then her son purchased her a ticket to Canada. She could not explain this quick turnaround. The woman's husband was contacted and he said that he was unaware his wife was travelling to Canada or when she would be returning to . . . He alluded to the possibility that she may be in Canada to work.

GCMS stated that she was asked on her visa application if she had ever been refused a visa and had said "no." A TRV remark in the woman's application shows a letter written from someone who wrote to the Canadian embassy stating that the woman lied on her visa application to in order to come to Canada. She was excluded and departed on . . . the following day.

No work permit. On March 25, a . . . woman . . . who sought entry for 180 days had no knowledge of Canada and had no plans or accommodations booked. She said her travel companion had all that information. **Darren Lal** decided that she warranted a second look. After a lengthy examination with extensive evasive and selective answers, **Pam Smith** discovered she was actually travelling with her PR employers and their two-year-old son. When paged to the front office, the male PR attended and confirmed he had hired the woman to be a nanny to their son. He confirmed that she did not have a work permit nor had he applied for one. The woman was excluded by MD **Julia Prinja**.

No PR visa. On March 28, a . . . woman arrived . . . and told PIL officer **Paul Nicholas** that she was here for 10 days to travel. When asked what she wanted to see or do, her vague answer was that she wanted to see the sights. When asked specifically what she wanted to see she could not name anything. She said she was here to meet her husband who was on business in New York. She did not know when he would arrive in Canada or where they would meet. She said that he would contact her. She did not know who her husband was working for, where he was staying or when he would be finished. **Shayla Howard** found photocopies of the husband's passport and visas in the woman's bag.

The woman had a copy of her husband's travel itinerary which showed that he was scheduled to return to . . . on March 8, however she said he was still in the US working. Her tickets were purchased by a

third-party six days prior to her travel and she was also given \$2500 by a third-party. She said her reception was her cousin's brother and that she had met him two years ago. Her reception, however, said he had never met the woman and was asked by her brother to take her in for 15 days. He was sent her photo so he would know what she looked like. He requested that we hold on to her passport to make sure she leaves. The woman had certifications and diplomas for her work. She said if she got bored waiting for her husband to arrive she would work a few shifts. She was excluded and departed the next day.

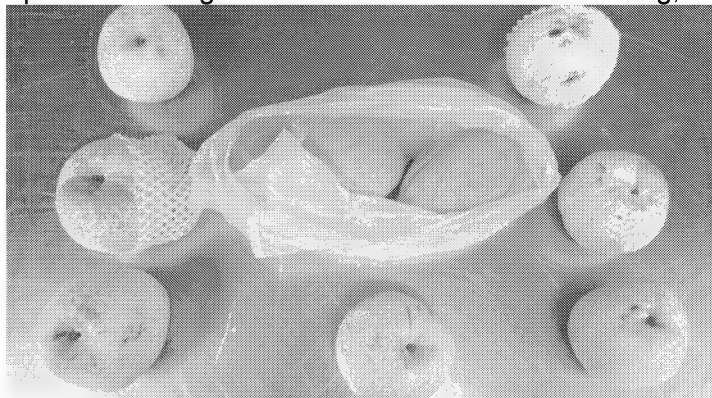
AGRICULTURE

Follow the leader. On March 6, a woman returning from was a hit by DD **Ashton** and handler **Nicole Bussanich**. While the woman was on her way to the Agriculture counter, she threw some items into the garbage. She was told to retrieve the discarded items and



returned with six eggs. The garbage bin was brought over and additional eggs and beef packages were found. The woman was found to have 2.49kg of duck, 1.5kg of rabbit, a kilo of pork, 754 g of chicken, 480 g of beef and 24 duck eggs. When **Heather Zentner** asked the woman why she threw out her food, she said she was on the phone with her friend and she told her to. She said she copied her E311 answers from someone else. An AAMP was issued and the woman paid the \$400 reduced penalty.

On the 8th, a woman arriving was referred due to an alert from detector dog **Whiskey** and handler **Barry Kohli**. The woman claimed that her sister helped her pack the bags and that she had not asked her sister what was packed. During an examination of the woman's bag,



Gord Peterson found 3.5 kg of duck, 1.3 kg of pork sausage, which had been thrown into a recycling bin prior to arriving at the storefront, but was witnessed by the DDS handlers. Two kilos of pears and ½ kilo of yams were also discovered in the woman's bags. An AAMP was issued, which the woman paid.



A huge PFA seizure was made by **Robin Sagarbarria** on March 10. A _____ man returning on _____ from _____ answered no to all the E311 questions but during an examination, 60 packages of soup containing meat (15.4 kg) were discovered. When asked why he did not declare the meat products, the man said that he did not think that he had to declare them because "*they were packaged*". He was issued an AAMP and paid the 50% penalty.



There were two AAMPs on March 14 beginning with a _____ woman who was intercepted at the _____ carousel by DD team **Marc Raymond** and **Fender** as positive for agricultural products. A secondary exam revealed 3.45kg of pork. When Marc asked why she didn't declare the items, she replied that her aunt told her it was tofu! A Notice of Violation was issued and the woman paid the \$400 penalty.

The next AAMP was made on a _____ woman _____ who said she was here for 60 days to visit family. **Nicole Bussanich** referred her as a hit for food products.



The woman, however, assured **Janus Wu** that she didn't have any food or meat in her bags. She said that a flight attendant completed her E311 for her, however she understood all of the questions. A baggage inspection resulted in 9.436 kg of meat products and four dehydrated corn on the cobs. When the food was discovered, the woman began asking for forgiveness and to give her a second chance. An \$800 AAMP was issued and the woman paid the \$400 reduced penalty.

On March 15, a _____ man _____ was roved by **Devon Dhaliwal** for currency concerns but a baggage exam revealed that he was not over the currency reporting threshold. During the



examination it was revealed that the man had buns containing meat. Upon examination of his five bags, a large red box was produced from one. On it were pictures of fish and the man claimed it was fish and seafood. But when the box was opened, it was found to be filled with 14.34 kg of frozen meat. When asked what kind of meat it was, the man said "pigeon and chicken". When asked why he did not declare the items he simply said, "I made a mistake". An AAMP was issued and the man paid the penalty.



Yet another caught smuggling meat. On March 25, a woman was referred as a result of an alert by DD **Ashton**. During the ensuing exam, **Barry Kohli** found approximately four kg of duck gizzards and beef jerky. The woman said she didn't declare the meat because it was dry.

She was issued an \$800 NOV.

The last big FPA seizure was made by **Gord Peterson** on March 26. Gord examined a man returning from who was referred due to an alert by DD **Whiskey** and handler **Barry Kohli**. The man said his mother helped him pack the bags but he was aware of the contents. His E311 card showed that he had not reported any food products. While examining the man's



luggage **Gord Peterson** found a package of chicken, two packages of duck, nine packages of duck parts, twelve packages of chicken eggs and one large package of pork sausage, a combined weight of six kilograms. When asked why he had not reported the meat, he just kept repeating "I'm sorry". Gordo finally asked him if he was trying to get away with something and he replied "yes". Gord gave the man an AAMP and he paid the \$400 fine.

Twenty years ago...from the *VIA Intelligence Bulletin* of March/April 1996

On March 13, **Thamis Fan** encountered a resident who had been for only four days. had been referred at point by **J.J. Chayeski**. The baggage exam on was negative but Thamis noticed that the lining of his jacket seemed bulky. At the privacy booth his jacket was examined and found to be somewhat heavy with a hard object in the lower right pocket. It was found to contain a block wrapped in paper. said, "An old woman gave it to me. I don't know what's inside. Please let me go. Please let me go." (*Clue number one.*) The substance tested positive for opiates. A P.S. was negative and was turned over to the RCMP. A total of 416 grams were seized.

Don and Sunny's Excellent Adventure. At Air Cargo on March 19, man, presented himself at the front counter to clear a shipment from The KE waybill declared the item as a "gift" with a gross weight of 52 kilograms. Due to the vagueness of the description and the nervousness of the importer, **Charles Reddick** referred the shipment to **Sunny Yuen** and **Donald Wong** for examination. The "gift" turned out to be a large stone vase in a wooden crate. The vase has a base made of a similar stone. X-rays were negative (likely due to the density of the vase) but the ionscan was a high positive. Drilling the base revealed a yellow, waxy plug. Further drilling with a longer bit revealed the heroin which was inside a garbage bag covered in masking tape. A total of 6720 grams were recovered. The consignee was arrested but later released.

Just another day at the office

Use of Force incident at Pacific Highway Traffic. On March 6, a Surrey couple with their infant child were referred for a selective secondary exam from Primary. Once they entered the CBSA building, the couple became hostile and belligerent with the examining officers. Both were yelling, used profane language, and became increasingly belligerent during pocket examinations, to the point where other officers working in the area could not communicate with other travellers. Officers dealing with the woman managed to de-escalate her however the man did not respond to the efforts. He was arrested for causing a disturbance but pulled away when the officer attempted to handcuff him. The officer used open hand control techniques to bring the man to the ground for handcuffing. Multiple BSOs assisted to re-

strain the man. Members of the public witnessed the incident and provided written statements, although none appeared to record it. The woman remained agitated during the event but was processed and released at the conclusion of the vehicle exam. She later returned to the port to pick the man up. Their demeanour changed dramatically upon his release and he apologized for his previous actions and behaviour towards officers. They proceeded into Canada without incident. The arresting officer, by the way, was our old friend and VIA alumnus Kyle Klimchuk.

Piano undervaluation at Vancouver Metro Commercial Operations. On March 30, seeking to import a Steinway grand piano at the Vessel Import Processing Centre in Vancouver. The importer said that the piano was given to their son as a gift from their niece in New York. The declared value was US\$8000. Upon further investigation, it was revealed that the piano was purchased in Pasadena, TX, two weeks earlier and was valued at US\$40,800 (undervalued by US\$32,800). Steinway provided the correct invoice. The piano was seized at level two and the prosecution warning was read and the importer arrested. The terms of release for the piano was \$17,258.05.

Europe beefs up border controls to stem migrant inflow

European states raise fences, close borders and bring military forces to protect their borders from the massive refugee and migrant inflow.

On March 10, about 200 Austrian soldiers and police officers conducted a joint operation on Austria's border with Slovenia in order to test the readiness to repel a large numbers of migrants. The exercise involved five military helicopters carrying aid. Although officially there are no recorded incidents to the Austrian border with migrants, Vienna is preparing for every eventuality.



At the same time, Bulgarian Army forces remain permanently at the country's borders while the government has implemented a new law on border protection. Earlier in March Bulgaria held the "Borders 2016" exercise with the participation of 400 army and police officers. Moreover, the country has erected a 30 km fence on the border with Turkey to stop refugees.

Similar exercises were held in the Czech Republic with the participation of 200 police officers and 20 customs officers. The aim of the exercise is to test police readiness in case of massive violations of the country's border with Austria. The Czech authorities state that such a scenario is likely if Austria closed the border with Germany.

Hungary maintains the hardest line across Europe. Prime Minister Viktor Orban sealed the country's borders and does not accept any

refugees. Hungary has raised a fence on the southern border with Serbia and Croatia, and has announced the creation of a new fence at the border with Romania.

A new fence on the border with Austria and Hungary in order to block all refugees to enter its territory was announced by Slovakia.

Slovenia hardens its stance as exercises in tighter border controls are carried out by the country's armed forces. Slovenia is building a wire fence on its 643 km border with Croatia. Slovenia's announcement caused a "domino effect," because Serbia made it clear that it will not open its borders for any migrant without legal documents from neighboring Bulgaria or Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

FYROM is also expanding the fence and is beefing up army patrols on its border with Greece and block refugees gathered at Idomeni.

Also, Italy and Albania agreed to hold joint patrols at the Greek-Albanian border to block refugee flows after the closure of the Balkan route. Rome appears worried that after the closing of the Balkan route refugees will find passage from Albania to the Adriatic Sea and then into Italian territory.

Also, after the terrorist attacks in Paris last November, France has closed its borders and has placed them under army control.

Belgium is concerned with the decision of French authorities to close Calais and there is fear that there will be a wave of refugees in Belgian territory wishing to cross to Britain. Thereby, Brussels decided to close the border with France. According to the Belgian government, the checks will continue as long as necessary. Approximately 290 Belgian police officers patrol the Franco-Belgian border and expel refugees.

Border controls and fences have been announced by Baltic States as well in fear that they will be the new route for the refugee flows after the closing of the Balkan route. Latvia and Estonia started work on constructing a fence at the border with Russia. (*Greek Reporter*)

Rating of the world's top 100 airports from the 2016 World Airport Awards

The World's Top 100 Airports – 2016

- 1 Singapore Changi (SIN)
- 2 Incheon Intl Airport (ICN)
- 3 Munich Airport (MUC)
- 4 Tokyo Intl Haneda (HND)
- 5 Hong Kong Intl Airport (HKG)
- 6 Centrair Airport (NGO)
- 7 Zurich Airport (ZRH)
- 8 London Heathrow (LHR)
- 9 Kansai Intl Airport (KIX)
- 10 Doha Hamad Airport (DOH)
- 11 Narita Intl Airport (NRT)
- 12 Frankfurt Airport (FRA)
- 13 Amsterdam Schiphol (AMS)
- 14 Vancouver Airport (YVR)**
- 15 Helsinki Airport (HEL)
- 16 Beijing Capital Airport (BJS)
- 17 Brisbane Airport (BNE)
- 18 Copenhagen Airport (CPH)
- 19 Cologne/Bonn Airport (CGN)
- 20 Taiwan Taoyuan Airport (TPE)

Best Airport Immigration Service

- 1 Hong Kong
- 2 Tokyo Narita
- 3 Zurich
- 4 Copenhagen
- 5 Taiwan Taoyuan
- 6 Tokyo Haneda
- 7 Centrair Nagoya
- 8 Kansai
- 9 Munich
- 10 Helsinki-Vantaa

Border controls tightened as Europe comes to grips with yet another mass casualty attack

The deadly bombings in Brussels prompted governments across the continent to hold emergency consultations and raise security at airports, train stations and borders, as Europeans grappled with fears that the threat of terrorism may become a part of their daily lives.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel is expected to convene the German cabinet March 23 to discuss a response plan to the attacks at Brussels' Zaventem airport and a crowded metro station near key European Union institutions. At least 34 people were killed and more than 180 injured. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Germany's federal police reported they have increased security on the borders with Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, as well as at airports and railway stations.

In France, already on a heightened state of

alert after the two terror attacks last year, President François Hollande held an emergency meeting with Prime Minister Manuel Valls and the interior and defense ministers.

France will now deploy an additional 1,600 police to guard borders, transport facilities and other sensitive sites. Security measures such as identity checks will be introduced at entry to train stations and airports, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said in a televised statement.

Belgium is nestled between the Netherlands, German, France and Luxembourg, and in the heart of the Schengen area – the 26 European countries that have scrapped visas and passport controls at their common borders. Some 3.5 million people cross borders within the zone every day, according to E.U. estimates, raising immense security challenges in an era of stepped-up terror threats.



After Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte convened a ministerial crisis committee, the government announced that border checks were being "stepped up considerably" and "extra measures" will be taken at major railway stations, including expanded patrols by military and border police.

Rutte is expected to discuss with leaders of the other countries neighboring Belgium whether extra measures are needed.

Belgium has itself gone into lockdown after the attacks, with Brussels airport cancelling all flights until at least March 23, and the national Coordination Unit for Threat Analysis raising the countrywide threat level to level 4,

which means there continues to be a real threat, for "as long as deemed necessary."

The government has ordered a strengthening of border controls, restrictions on public transport and strengthened military presence at key sites.

The attack on March 22 has had a major impact on transportation across the region. High speed train service Eurostar, which operates fast-speed trains between London, Paris and Brussels, said its services to Brussels had been cancelled. In Germany, the national rail operator, Deutsche Bahn, temporarily suspended all trains to the Belgian capital while Berlin's airports cancelled all flights to Brussels.

Security at airports, train stations and borders has also been enhanced in Britain, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. (CNS News)

What can airports do to prevent another terror attack?

The atrocities in Brussels have again raised the question of what can be done to counter terror attacks on airports and public spaces. Here Philip Baum – editor-in-chief of *Aviation Security International* and founder of Green Light, a security and consultancy service for the airline industry – explains why procedures need to be less predictable and more intelligent, and why the controversial topic of “profiling” needs to be considered.

Could anything have been done to prevent the atrocities in Brussels, particularly the attack at the airport?

We can always learn from events, but it would be foolish to believe that there is any combination of measures which can guarantee security. There is no such thing as a 100 per cent secure airport – unless it is a closed airport. However, I do think that the aviation industry and those who regulate it have been loath to embrace the most effective security measure – profiling. Or, more specifically “behavioural analysis techniques” – which respond not only to the threats of yesterday and today, but also to the threats of tomorrow.

Why “behavioural analysis techniques” rather than “profiling?”

I prefer the term “profiling” – just as long as it isn’t converted into “racial profiling”. Security is not about race. It is about behaviour that you can see – if somebody is behaving in a nervous manner, or interacting with their surroundings in an unusual way.



In an ideal world, you would use a combination of measures. I would have airport staff looking at passenger data and travel history at checkpoints, and at the types of bags that people are carrying. These are not behaviours you can see, but they are extra information. Beyond that, we are talking about training people who work in the airport, at different levels, to be observant, and to report things – shop and check-in staff, cleaners, caterers, restaurant managers. Then you need security teams – plain-clothed and undercover as well as uniformed – operating not just at checkpoints but in public areas, at the terminal entrance, on trains to the airport, at the airport perimeter. Security should be on the move.

What we must not do as a result of Brussels is decide that we now need to have an extra checkpoint on the outside of the terminal. That just creates another terrorist target.

Do you worry that extra checkpoints will be the response to the Brussels attacks?

I hope there is no kneejerk response to what happened this week. We have been talking about a front-of-house attack on an airport for a while. It has happened before anyway – in Rome, Vienna, Moscow. There is nothing new here – so we shouldn’t be putting in a raft of new measures. Although I would like a greater use of canine units in airports. Police dogs are unnerving for terrorists because they are unpredictable. At the moment, airport security is too predictable. Everybody knows what they are going to go through.

Why would dogs make a difference?

Currently, the airport checkpoint is one moment, one place. People can prepare to go through it. If you have trained dog teams roaming terminal areas and outside the airport, randomly sniffing bags and people, it makes it much harder for terrorists to plot their way round a system. They don’t know how alert the dog is; there’s nothing that will tell them.

You say people should be trained to look for unusual behaviour. What exactly?

We all have certain expectations of how a passenger behaves. How a business passenger acts, how a family acts, how air crew and baggage handlers behave. When you see behaviour that doesn’t match your expectations, be prepared to ask questions. So rather than simply taking liquids, aerosols and gels off people – we are spending huge sums and wasting time confiscating innocuous items from people who are no threat – let’s start trying to identify those we are concerned about.

Currently, the airport security system mainly focuses on identifying prohibited items. We need to start looking for negative intent. That is what happens elsewhere in the airport. When you get off a plane, you have to go through

customs. Customs do not screen every passenger – they look for people and behaviour. Immigration officials are the same. So why don't we do that *before* people get on a plane? When people say it's politically incorrect to do this – nonsense. We're doing it already. We just aren't doing it at security.

Are there any particular “telltale signs”?

You are trying to identify abnormalities. It's not a case of saying “look for the person who is sweating profusely”. It doesn't work like that. People sweat at airports for lots of reasons – because they are nervous flyers; because the air conditioning isn't working, and it's hot. It is when you have individuals or a group who are not interacting with each other or the world around them in accordance with our expectations. That's the best way to summarise it. You have to be able to identify it, to monitor it, to report it, respond to it.

Isn't there a danger that this would create an atmosphere of fear and suspicion?

I think it does the exact opposite. At the moment, we are trying to be afraid of everybody, which doesn't make sense. I want to see people going through checkpoints more quickly. We are wasting time making people jump through hoops when they don't need to, because that is “procedure”. It's a tick-box exercise.

People talk about Israeli airports. I would never advocate an Israeli-style approach to security at Heathrow or Charles de Gaulle. The threat level is different, the passenger numbers different. But we could take the common-sense element. You can go through Tel Aviv airport – arguably the most secure airport in the world – with liquids, aerosols and gels. They are not worried about them. A liquid is not a threat. The person is the threat.

Are security procedures at UK airports reactive rather than proactive – responding to things that have already taken place rather than anticipating the future?

Actually, the UK tends to be one of the most proactive states in the world when it comes to airport security. I generally see good standards of security. But globally, yes, it is a reactive industry. If we tried to put measures in place now to counter, for example, chemical and biological weapons, the industry would say: “Hold on. Where is the evidence that chemical and biological weapons are a threat? It hasn't happened.” Well it hasn't – yet. But it might. In the wake of the “underpants bomber” [Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who tried to detonate plastic explosives hidden in his underwear on a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit in 2009], body scanners were brought in. But which body scanners? Just the millimetre wave systems which can see beneath clothing. Not the transmission x-ray systems which can see through the body. Because the “underpants bomber” was wearing something underneath his clothing. He wasn't carrying it within his body. Customs organisers use transmission x-rays to see what a potential drug trafficker might have inside their body. I think we need that capability at the checkpoint. Not for screening everyone – but when we have concerns. It's about being intelligent, less predictable; about not having a tick-box security system where we just follow guidelines.

Is the ban on liquids in containers larger than 100ml useless? Does it achieve anything? Surely this is in response to one attempted attack a decade ago?

Well, it was certainly introduced in response to a specific threat [in August 2006]. But it's very difficult, when you add a new security measure, to be the government which decides to take it away. Because then, if something happens, you are responsible.

That's why I'm opposed to kneejerk responses. After 9/11, reinforced cockpit doors came in. Look at the impact. Since then, this has caused several incidents, including the Germanwings crash [on March 24 last year, where co-pilot Andreas Lubitz locked his pilot out of the cockpit before flying the plane into the Alps]. And after that, there was an instant reaction. Airlines were saying there should be two people in the cockpit at all times, without training people as to what they should do when they are there, introducing people who have had fewer background checks – flight attendants compared to pilots – into the mix. We shouldn't change procedures every time there is a problem. We need to look at incidents and learn from them. But we don't need to be making changes just to satisfy the public – so the industry is seen to be doing something.

Is a lot of what happens at airports “security theatre” which gives the impression of safety?

Well deterrent certainly isn't useless. It is probably the reason why this week's attack in Brussels happened in the check-in hall – because the attackers did not want to risk going through a security checkpoint. It isn't necessarily bad – but we need to remember that there are numerous ways of attacking aviation. Or attacking anywhere, for that matter.

Ultimately, is there anything that can be done – beyond trusting in the intelligence services – if someone is determined to detonate a suicide belt in a public place?

The reality is, you cannot guarantee people's security. It is down to intelligence. People are quick to criticise the authorities when something goes wrong. But you can't monitor all people all the time. You can only try to minimise vulnerability. And you do this by making a target less attractive, and by making security less predictable – because then the person who wants to attack that target finds it harder to come up with an operational plan.

Is there anything people can do individually to lessen the chance of being caught in a terror situation?

The obvious stuff – reporting suspicious behaviour. But mainly, we need to continue going about our daily lives. That's most important. Otherwise terrorism wins. (*The Telegraph*)

How airport security around the world could change after the Brussels attack

Travelers know what to expect from airport security: limits on liquids, requirements to remove shoes and belts, occasional pat downs and luggage X-rays. But these security measures, many put in place after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York City, focus on eliminating attacks on planes — not at the airports. And after the attacks in Brussels, airport security has been thrust into the spotlight.

Airports across the country are working to reevaluate security risks and update procedures. These changes could take several different forms says Jim Hutton, chief security officer of travel risk management company On Call International.



Immediately following the attacks, many airports around the world increased the number of security officers on patrol. "You're going to see a lot more visibility in security presence," Hutton said. "Officers, even military, marked vehicles — things you aren't used to typically seeing in an airport. Perhaps additional X-ray equipment, more tools of the trade. You might be searched more than once; there could be additional screening of luggage."

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is adding security to major U.S. airports and rail and transit stations, according to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh

Johnson. "TSA is also working closely with state and local law enforcement, airport and transit authorities, and the aviation industry in order to augment that security," Johnson said in a statement.

The two explosions at Brussels' Zaventem airport happened before security checkpoints, by the check-in counter. A similar attack happened in 2011 at Moscow's Domodedovo International Airport when a suicide bomber killed 37 people in the pre-security area. Today, that airport has security checks to enter the public areas of its terminals.



Many airports in the Middle East and Africa check passengers' identification and luggage when they arrive at the terminal entrance. However, western airports are fairly open: It is not necessary to pass through security to enter, only when passing through secure checkpoints to gates.

In the U.S., the TSA is responsible for airport screening at checkpoints. But the public areas are under shared jurisdiction with local authorities. This area is usually monitored by uniformed and plain-clothed security patrol, along with security cameras. However, airport areas before controlled security checks are considered "soft spots," meaning they are more vulnerable.

Ben Vogel, the editor of *IHS Jane's Airport Review*, said that airports may soon consider covert explosives-detection technologies and passenger screening at terminal entrances.

This increased security would be costly as it would require terminal reconfiguration — but Brussels airport is already considering it. Although it will be months until the airport is fully repaired, the airport's temporary check-in area has enhanced security measures and will have additional baggage screening before passengers reach the departure lounge.

"It's going to be hard to establish a 'hard line' where security begins," Hutton said. "Because, when you think about airports and types of airports, no two are alike. There's LaGuardia that's incredibly crowded, or Logan, that's on the water. The geography of an airport is always different."

In cases where an airport's security cannot be rearranged, Hutton said that airports could start restricting vehicle access. In one extreme scenario, Hutton described an airport that would only allow access via a shuttle. All cars — personal or taxis — would park and drop passengers offsite, where they would go through approved, secure transport. "We need to be imaginative about security," Hutton said. "In cases where you can't change the environment, the change may need to be procedural."



No matter what security changes are implemented, travelers can contribute to their own safety by being prepared and conscientious. Hutton suggests that travelers arrive to the airport early to account for any extra security checks, and to be conscious about how they pack their luggage.

"If you don't draw unnecessary attention to your luggage, that makes security's job easier," Hutton said. "Multiply that by 50,000 and security can focus on the real risks. Be mindful of signage, listen to directions: That can help manage the flow. Never assume that anything is going to be the same as when you last did it."

But, Hutton said, amidst this talk of increased security, a conversation about personal liberties will also emerge for Americans. "There are some who swear by profiling, or as they call it, behavioral detection," Hutton said. "They think it is very effective. But then there are others with significant civil liberty concerns. A conversation is going to start about where the hard line of security and the balance between security and freedom and the public will have a great say in what changes, if any, happen."

Fourteen passport stamps you've probably never seen before



North Korea

Given that fact that only about 1,500 tourists are allowed to visit the secret country each year, getting one of these on your passport is something pretty special. To get access, you must book a tour with approved companies—and you'll receive your stamp upon entry.



Tristan da Cunha

This island located in the South Atlantic Ocean is considered the most remote, inhabited isle in the world. There's no airport, so visitors have to take a five-day boat ride from the nearest point in South Africa before getting the coveted stamp.

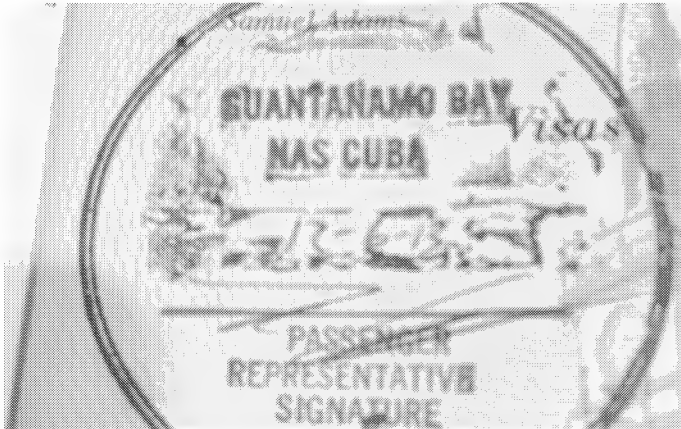


Republic of San Marino

It's not the hardest stamp to get a hold of, but it's certainly unique. This destination located in central Italy is the world's oldest, smallest republic.

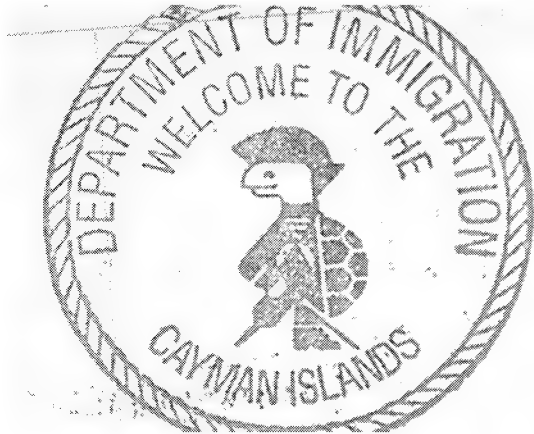


Canada Border
Services Agency Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada



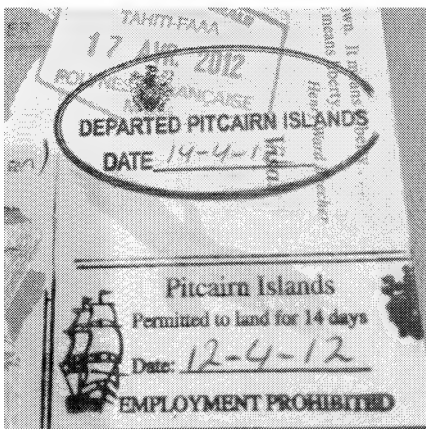
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Now that Cuba's borders are a bit more relaxed for Americans, there will likely be a larger influx of visitors. But, getting into Guantanamo Bay still remains elusive. Only those with military business are allowed.



Cayman Islands

This passport stamp is just downright adorable. Sir Turtle was created by Suzy Soto in 1963 and still greets visitors today.



Pitcairn Island

Pitcairn Island is simply one of my favourite places on Earth and I was only there for three days. From the mystery of how to get to Pitcairn Island to the landing at Bounty Bay, it's amazing!

PROTECTION • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

Canada

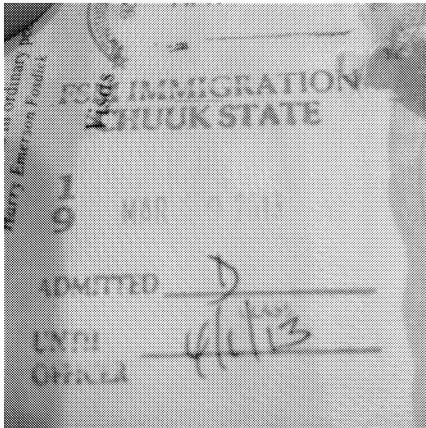


Canada Border
Services Agency Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada



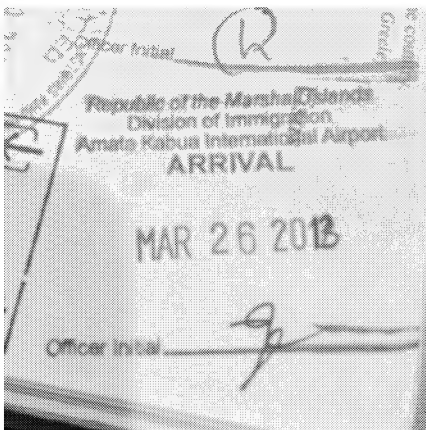
Falkland Islands

Whether you visit only visit Stanley or get out to Bleaker Island, Sea Lion Island or Carcass Island you will love the Falklands!



Chuuk

Chuuk is a state and an island of the Federated States of Micronesia which also include Yap and Pohnpei.



Marshall Islands

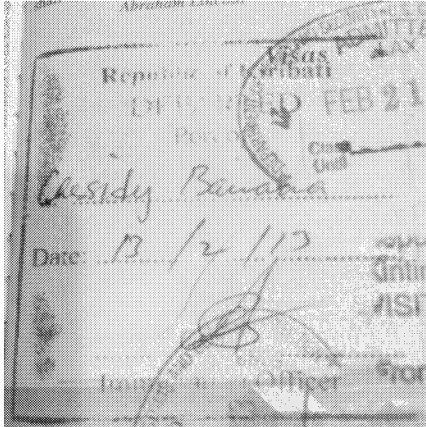
The Marshall Islands are very cool!

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Canada



Canada Border
Services Agency Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada



Kiribati

Kiribati: the other Christmas Island is a tough place to get to but well worth the trip!



Niue

Niue is a small island only reachable via weekly flight from Auckland or private yacht.



Norfolk Island

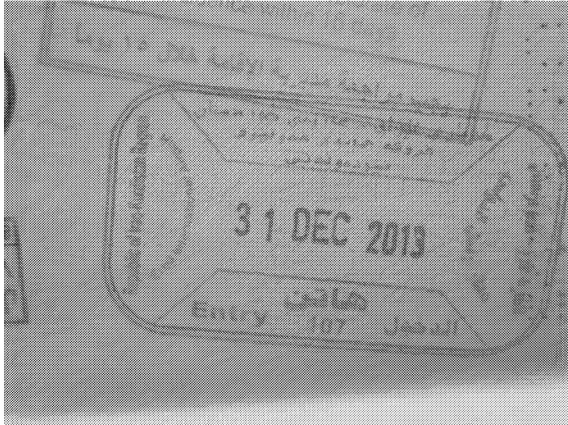
Norfolk Island is an interesting Australian Island with ties to Pitcairn.

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Iraqi Kurdistan

Iraqi Kurdistan and the main city of Erbil is a great place to visit!



Montserrat

No it's not Ireland, but the Caribbean island of Montserrat, which can boast a surprising Irish heritage.

CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND AGRICULTURE AROUND THE WORLD

Abu Dhabi, UAE – Man put behind bars over drug smuggling attempt

The Abu Dhabi Criminal Court sentenced a man to four years in jail, to be followed by deportation. The court charged the suspect with bringing hashish into the country for consumption. The drugs were confiscated.



جمارك أبوظبي
ABU DHABI CUSTOMS

Details of the case date back to the time when the suspect arrived at Abu Dhabi International Airport on December 25. While at the check-in-counter, 0.84 grammes of hashish were found in his luggage.

The suspect pointed out that he knew nothing about the charge brought against him. He added that he had no drugs or Tramadol, and that the customs inspector only found crumbs of drugs sprinkled on the bag.

PROTECTION • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

Canada



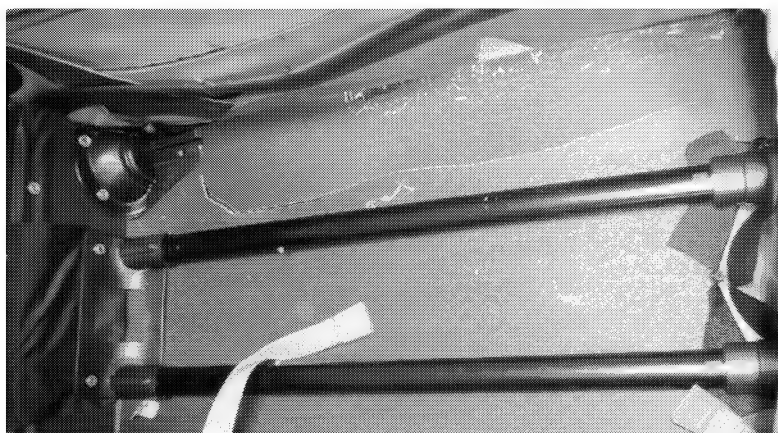
The suspect stressed that he did not consume drugs, pointing out that he bought the bag from a friend when he was in the Maldives on December 27. He requested the court to take into consideration that the consumption of the drugs happened outside the country. (*The Gulf Today*)

Aruba, N.I. – U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers intercepted nearly five pounds of cocaine concealed in a traveler's luggage liner

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers working at the Aruba Preclearance facility intercepted a cocaine courier traveling with nearly five pounds of cocaine valued at more than \$30,000, on Mar. 8.



The courier, a U.S. permanent resident, was traveling to Florida when CBP officers referred her to a secondary examination. During the examination of her luggage, officers indicated an anomaly within the lining of the bag. After probing the liner, CBP officers discovered a white powdery substance concealed within the liner.



The traveler was arrested and turned over to Aruba Customs.

Australia – Darwin man charged with importing weapons



A 29-year-old Karama man is scheduled to appear before the Darwin Magistrates Court charged with importing prohibited goods, including weapons and steroids.

Australian Border Force officers at Darwin International Airport targeted the man for a baggage examination when he arrived on a flight from Bali on 1 March.

During their search, the officers uncovered a range of prohibited goods in the man's bag, including handheld shock devices, laser pointers, automatic knives, knuckle dusters and steroids.

Australia – Jail term halts designer's fashion dream

A talented graphic designer who smuggled cocaine worth an estimated \$80,000 from Bali into Perth in a bid to gain a "professional springboard" into a career in the fashion industry will spend at least three years behind bars.

Alex Christopher Lugo, who imported 226g of the drug into Perth International Airport, sobbed in the dock of the District Court on March 8 as he was jailed for 4½ years. The court was told that Lugo, a graphic illustrator and designer, had been working on fashion shows in Bali before the "fateful journey" to Perth in June last year.

Defence lawyer Mark Andrews said Lugo had agreed to courier the drugs, originally from Amsterdam and which were concealed in a gin bottle, after getting caught up in the "party scene" in Bali and relapsing into using cocaine. Mr Andrews said his client had thought he would be paid about \$10,000 for bringing in the drug.

Mr Andrews said Lugo, who is from the US and had been living in Berlin, would "do his time very hard" in Perth and urged the court to show a degree of mercy.

Judge Anette Schoombee said she accepted Lugo had acted as a courier and was not at the higher end of the drug supply network hierarchy. She said the 37-year-old had committed the offence for financial gain and in an attempt to ingratiate himself with his Australian contact.

Lugo, who in a letter to the court said he was deeply sorry and described the offence as the worst mistake of his life, will be eligible for parole after serving three years. He also faces the prospect of being deported by immigration authorities. (*The West Australian*)

Australia – Chilean men arrested over handbag snatch

Three men wanted over a violent bag snatch on the Gold Coast have been arrested by the Australian Border Force in Sydney as they attempted to leave the country.

The men, all Chilean nationals, are suspected of stealing a 53-year-old woman's handbag outside a Carrara storage facility March 9. CCTV footage captured the woman being dragged more than 20 metres along the road, as she desperately clung to her handbag, which contained \$7000 in cash.

One of the men is alleged to have approached the woman and told her she had a flat tyre, before snatching the bag as she bent down to inspect it. She suffered cuts, grazes and bruises as she was dragged along the road while clinging to the bag.



The three men, aged 17, 22 and 40, were arrested at Sydney airport on March 13 and were taken into custody by the Australian Federal Police. The Queensland Police Service will now seek their extradition to charge them over the bag snatch.

The trio are also suspected to be behind an attempted break-in at a home in Norwell, on the northern Gold Coast the same day they targeted the Victorian woman. (*Brisbane Times*)

Australia – Pair charged with importing 18kg of heroin

Two foreign nationals are due to appear before Sydney Central Local Court charged with importing 18 kilograms of heroin into Australia.

Australian Border Force officers identified the 41-year-old woman and 51-year-old man after they arrived at Sydney International Airport on a flight from Thailand on 14 March. The pair were selected by ABF officers for a baggage examination after an ABF detector dog had a positive reaction to their bags at the carousel.

After an x-ray of their bags showed inconsistencies, the ABF officers examined the bags further, finding a false bottom in each of the cases. The officers deconstructed the cases uncovering a total of approximately 18 kilograms of a white powder concealed inside. Initial testing of the substance was positive for heroin.

Australia – Brazilian charged for importing 6kg of cocaine

A 28-year-old Brazilian national will appear before Sydney Central Local Court charged with importing approximately six kilograms of cocaine. Australian Border Force officers targeted the man after he arrived at Sydney International Airport on a flight from Santiago March 17.

The officers x-rayed his bag and noticed inconsistencies in the lining of the case. The officers deconstructed the case uncovering about six kilograms of a white powder concealed inside. Initial testing of the substance was positive for cocaine.

Australia – Two charged after meth concealed in windsurfer sails seized

Two women have been charged after attempting to import a quantity of methamphetamine in windsurfer sails March 20. The 25-year-old woman and 24-year-old woman were selected by Australian Border Force officers for a luggage examination after they arrived at Sydney International Airport on a flight from Los Angeles March 20.

The bags containing the windsurfer boards and sails were x-rayed and the officers noticed irregularities within the sail framework. After further examination, the sail framework was found to contain a white substance which, when tested, returned a positive result for methamphetamine. Further testing will be done to determine the exact weight and purity of the drugs seized.

Australia – Teen jailed for smuggling cocaine worth \$2.5 million into Melbourne

A teen drug mule who smuggled more than \$2 million of cocaine into Melbourne has been jailed for six years.

Lucas dos Santos was just 18 when he met criminal associate “Fernando” in a Brazilian bar and agreed to smuggle cocaine into Australia. The school dropout and unemployed sushi chef was promised \$20,000 plus expenses to make his first ever overseas trip. But he didn’t even leave Melbourne Airport after arriving on August 15 last year, then aged 19, before being arrested by federal police.



Dos Santos was travelling with two suitcases stuffed with 4.53kg of cocaine. He made full admissions on his arrest, but said he was clueless about the quantity of drugs he had been carrying. The suitcases, he said, had been packed and supplied by Fernando, who had agreed to pay dos Santos \$20,000 for acting as his courier.

Dos Santos, who feared a life of poverty with a maximum earning capacity of \$500 a month, had wanted to use the money to “set him up for life”. The court heard dos Santos had weighed up the risks and consequences of smuggling the cocaine, but thought more of the money to be made. He later told police: “I have consciousness that I did wrong and unfortunately I have to pay for this. I have to comply with the law.”

Dos Santos pleaded guilty to a charge of importing a commercial quantity of cocaine and faced a maximum term of life imprisonment.

Judge Mark Taft said dos Santos’s youth, early plea of guilty, co-operation with authorities, and clean criminal record was not enough to spare him a prison term. “Any sentence must discourage other young men and women from the temptation to act as couriers of illicit drugs,” he said.

Dos Santos’s lawyer had argued he should be imprisoned at a youth detention facility, but the submission was rejected. “It must be recalled that the maximum penalty for the importation of a commercial quantity of cocaine is imprisonment for life,” Judge Taft said.

“You were actively involved in the planning and organisation of the importation of cocaine into Australia over a two-month period. It is most significant that you stood to greatly profit from your conduct,” he said. “You are genuinely remorseful for your conduct although that regret is directed more to your own predicament than to an appreciation of the plight of other persons who are dependent on illicit drugs.”

Dos Santos, who has been in custody since August, must serve three years and three months in jail before becoming eligible for parole. *(Herald Sun) Editor’s note: In typical fashion, the Australian Federal Police were credited with this seizure by the Australian Border Force.*

Australia – Brazilians jailed for \$5m cocaine stash

Two Brazilian men who tried to smuggle \$5 million of cocaine into Queensland were trying to solve the financial woes of their families, a court has heard.

Edmo Cunha, 27, and Gean Carlos Rosso Bernardo, 24, were arrested in February last year at the Brisbane International Airport after customs officers noticed an “abnormal bulge” in Cunha’s groin region. Both men were found to be concealing three packages of cocaine each, totalling about 5kg, with a street value of over \$5 million.

The Brisbane Supreme Court on March 23 heard Rosso Bernardo, a civil engineering student, was motivated by financial gain for both his ill mother and himself.

Cunha was also motivated by financial woes, after he was involved in a car accident with a soccer teammate and caused about \$8000 damage, while his family also struggled to pay his father’s medical bills. The teammate, described as “a bad person” by Cunha’s friends, proposed he transport a package to Australia in the place of money and he was fearful of what would happen if the debt was not settled.

"The offences are particularly serious and it is necessary that the court impose sentences which are likely to deter others from committing other similar offences," Justice John Byrne said.

Rosso Bernardo, whose packages contained higher-purity cocaine that constituted a "commercial quantity" of the drug, received a sentence of nine years with a non-parole period of five years and six months. Cunha was handed a sentence of eight years with a non-parole period of five years. (*The Cairns Post*)

Australia – Man attempts to import meth in champagne

A 26-year-old Malaysian national is scheduled to appear in Perth Magistrate's Court, charged with attempting to import methamphetamine, suspended in champagne, through Perth International Airport.

On 26 March 2016, Australian Border Force officers questioned a man who arrived on a flight from Malaysia and his luggage was subsequently examined. Two boxed 1.5-litre bottles of champagne were located, and it appeared the seal on one of the boxes containing the bottles had been broken.

ABF officers conducted a presumptive test of the bottle's contents, which gave a positive indication for methamphetamine, commonly known as ice. Further testing will be undertaken to determine the exact weight and purity of the drugs seized.

Australia – Brazen attempt to import ice

Two Taiwanese nationals will face a Sydney court charged with importing approximately 11 kilograms of methamphetamine in their luggage.

The men, aged 22 and 21, arrived on a flight from Taiwan into Sydney 28 March and were subject to baggage examination by Australian Border Force officers. A number of gift-wrapped boxes in their luggage were opened and found to contain a white crystalline substance. This substance was presumptively tested and indicated a positive result for methamphetamine.

Australia – Man charged after cocaine secreted in liquid seized



A 31-year-old Brazilian national was due to face court after attempting to import cocaine through Sydney Airport.

The man was stopped by Australian Border Force officers after arriving in Sydney 29 March on a flight from London. Officers conducted an examination of the man's bags, during which three bottles of alcohol, totalling about 3.4 litres, were located.

The bottles were x-rayed and ABF officers noted inconsistencies. The contents of the bottles were presumptively tested, returning a positive result for cocaine. Further testing will be done to determine the exact weight and purity of the drugs seized.

Azerbaijan – Azerbaijani border guards kill five gunmen crossing into Iran

Azerbaijan says its border guards have shot dead five armed Bangladeshi and Azerbaijani citizens who were trying to illegally cross the border into Iran.

A statement from the border guard service says the shootings took place on March 13 near the village of Dashkend on Azerbaijan's southern border with Iran. The statement said the group ignored warning shots and began to shoot back at the police. It said two armed suspects were detained. (Radio Free Europe)

Bahamas – 65 lbs of cocaine discovered at LPIA in Nassau, 2 arrested



Two adult males are in custody after they were arrested following a major drug bust at The Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) on 9th March 2016.

According to reports, shortly after 6:00pm, the two adult males were traveling to the United States, when United States Customs and Border Patrol officials detained them at the United States Pre-Clearance Departure Lounge at LPIA following the discovery of just over 65 pounds of cocaine in their luggage. (*The Bahamas Weekly*)

Bahrain – Asian held with marijuana at Bahrain airport



An attempt to smuggle two kilogrammes of marijuana into the country through Bahrain International Airport was foiled on March 29.

Airports Customs Director said the substance was hidden in two wooden tubes. The Director added that it was seized from an Asian passenger. "He entered the green lane holding two bags. He was diverted to the red lane when the Customs officers suspected him. Further inspection resulted in the detection of the substance," the Director stated in a press statement. (*DT News*)

Bangladesh – 1,000 fake ATM cards seized at Shahjalal Airport

Customs Intelligence officials seized some 1,000 fake ATM cards at Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on March 2. The seizure was made amid growing concerns over the recent incident of ATM card forgery.

Tipped off, a team of Customs Intelligence officials seized the ATM cards packed in five cartons from the freight unit of the airport in the morning.

All the cartons were brought to Bangladesh by DHL courier service from Hong Kong by a flight of Thai Airways, said director general of customs intelligence and investigation directorate Dr Moinul Khan. A process is underway to find out the culprits, he said.

Bangladesh – Customs seize 10kg gold at HSIA

Customs officials seized 10 gold-bars weighing 10 kilograms worth about Tk 50 million (\$845,200) at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city on March 6.

"We, on secret information, seized 10 gold-bars weighing one kilogram each from inside seat number 17E and 17F of a Singapore returned flight (BG-085) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines at the airport at around 9:30 on March 6," assistant commissioner of customs Rezaul Karim said. (*The Financial Express*)

Barbados – Man facing drug charges after fleeing airport

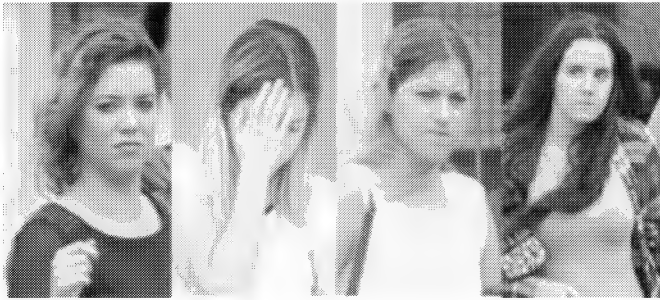
A man who police say fled from the airport while his barrel was being searched will appear in court to face drug-related charges. He is 30-year-old Jevon Jason Richards of Princess Royal Avenue, The Pine, St Michael.

Police say he went to the Grantley Adams International Airport to collect a barrel on March 23. After he ran away, Customs officials found 12 pounds of cannabis hidden in household and food containers. Investigations led to his arrest.

Richards will appear in the District "B" Magistrates' Court to face charges of possession of cannabis, possession with intent to supply trafficking and importation. (*Nationnews*)

Barbados – Malvern student among four caught smuggling drugs into Barbados

Lawyers for four **Canadian** women charged with smuggling marijuana into Barbados say they are victims in this case. The four all pleaded guilty to importing and trafficking charges and now face tens of thousands of dollars in fines after they were caught by airport officials with 146 pounds of marijuana in their luggage.



The court was told the four, including a 17-year-old student, were not your typical drug mules. All come from broken homes and were preyed upon, promised an all-expenses paid trip to the Caribbean island in exchange for smuggling in the drugs.

All four left Pearson International Airport back on March 29 and upon landing at Grantley Airport in Barbados, were pulled aside by customs officials and searched individually. All four were carrying two

pieces of luggage, one of which contained the contraband.

Emma Jacqueline Young, 17, a student at Malvern Collegiate, and Natalie Linton, 24, were each handed fines of \$52,000 CDN in exchange for jail time. Charlette Blackman, 34, was fined over \$45,000 while Paige Amber Clark, 20, was fined \$39,000.

Only Young has paid her fine and been released from custody. She is expected to arrive back in Canada April 1. The remaining three are still being held in police custody and scheduled to return to court. (680 News)



Bulgaria – Customs officials bust cocaine trafficking ring at Sofia Airport

Customs officials working at the airport in the Bulgarian capital have busted an international cocaine trafficking ring. Initially, the officials found and seized an express courier shipment with cocaine concealed in a speaker, which was destined for export from Bulgaria to Israel.

During a follow-up operation on the territory of Sofia, customs officials detained two Bulgarian and two Russian citizens and seized another cocaine shipment destined for Israel. Checks have been carried out at two hotels in Sofia where evidence of the group's criminal activity have been found.

Bulgaria – Soviet-era barbed wire fence is rebuilt in Bulgaria to prevent migrants reaching Europe via new Turkish route as Prime Minister also announces plans for a wall on Greek border

Bulgaria has returned to its Cold War days as it works to rebuild the Soviet-era barbed wire fence along its border with Turkey - only this time to stop migrants hoping for a new life in Europe. The fence is being constructed to seal Bulgaria's entire border to prevent the country becoming the new gateway to Europe.

The local authorities are hoping to put off the ruthless criminal gangs exploiting families fleeing war and terror in Syria, Iraq and North Africa from trying to enter Europe via Bulgaria. Bulgaria is also ready to build a fence on its border with Greece, Prime Minister Boiko Borisov announced.

Bulgaria started erecting a barbed wire fence along its border with Turkey in November 2013. Now work is being speeded up. Almost 100km of the fence has been completed and the aim is to have 132.5km completed by July, which would be half the entire frontier. The fence is part of Bulgaria's efforts to avoid becoming the new refugee route into the EU after western Balkan countries slammed shut their borders to illegal immigrants.

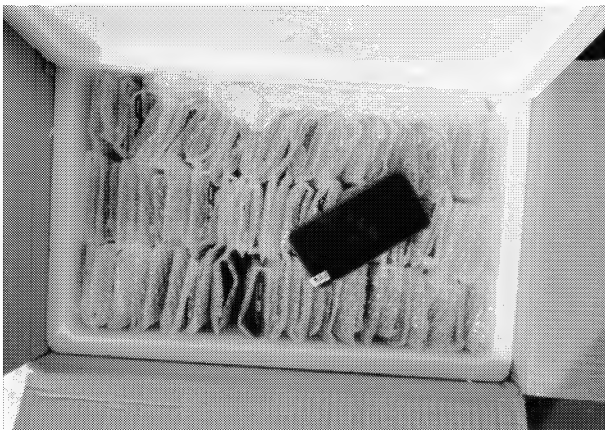


The fence is monitored 24/7 by armed guards stationed at strategic points along its current 95km length. Border police look into Turkey from watchtowers with binoculars. Infra-red motion-sensitive cameras mean parents carrying their children in bundles are rounded up as they try to smuggle themselves across Europe's eastern frontier under cover of darkness.

It is also one of the few countries in eastern Europe registering and fingerprinting all migrants and was doing so long before the Paris attacks. (*Daily Mail*)

Bulgaria – 1000 smartphones which violate the intellectual property rights of Apple Inc. were seized by customs officers at Sofia Airport

A big shipment of counterfeit smartphones was discovered and seized by customs officers of Sofia Airport Customs House.



Due to emerged suspicions customs officers of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Department inspected a shipment imported from Hong Kong, which was officially declared to be consisted of touch mobile phones with defects for parts. During the inspection it was ascertained that the shipment contained new smartphones violating the intellectual property rights of Apple Inc.

The receiver of the shipment was a Bulgarian company and the smartphones were intended to be sold on the Bulgarian market. The counterfeit products were seized and the right owners of the affected brand were informed about the seizure. As a result, the smartphones will be destroyed.

Cambodia – Koreans busted at airport smuggling smartphones

Three South Korean nationals were arrested at Siem Reap International Airport on March 26 after landing with more than 400 contraband smartphones in their luggage, local authorities said.



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Kong Sokpheallakun, the airport's head of customs, said authorities arrested the first man, who had just disembarked from a flight from South Korea, at about 11:30 p.m. after a scanner alerted them to the more than 100 Apple and Samsung smartphones in his suitcase.

The man informed them of two more colleagues, who were apprehended 15 minutes later with another 300 phones. "When we found out that two more were coming, we checked their suitcases and found 300 smartphones, and they didn't have permission to import them."

Cambodia – Thai woman arrested at airport with cocaine disguised as candy

Customs police at Phnom Penh International Airport on March 30 arrested a Thai woman with 2.6 kilograms of cocaine disguised as candy, police and airport sources said.

Police said the suspect flew into the airport on March 30 on flight QR 970, which is from Doha, Qatar, according to multiple flight directories. However, police said the suspect was originally coming from Bahrain, which she departed on Tuesday. Police requested media not publish the suspect's name due to the ongoing investigation.



When her cylindrical candy boxes raised suspicions, customs officials opened them to find small bundles inside filled with a white powder, which further examination proved to be cocaine, said an airport security officer who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to the media.

"She put the cocaine in, covered by the candy plastic and put them inside the box of candy. The case now is under investigation; we cannot tell details about it," the police source said. The evidence was sent to anti-drug officials at the Ministry of Interior, he said, and the suspect is being questioned.

Neak Yuthea, a deputy general at the NACD, confirmed the arrest of a Thai woman by customs police but said he didn't know the details of the case, as he was in the provinces.

Yuthea said cocaine was a rare illicit product for Cambodia because of its expense and there was not much of a market here. He believed that the alleged drug mule was in transit to another country. "We don't have consumers of coke in Cambodia; construction labourers could not afford it," said Yuthea. "If there are such cases of coke use in Cambodia, it is foreigners." (*The Phnom Penh Post*)

PROTECTION • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

Canada

Canada – Child pornography seizure at Sprague results in significant jail sentence

The Canada Border Services Agency announced that on March 1, 2016, in a Winnipeg Provincial court, Robert William Roske of Minnesota entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to a 2.5 year jail sentence for attempting to smuggle digital images and videos of child pornography, contrary to section 159 of the *Customs Act*.

This case dates back to July 30, 2015 when Mr. Roske was seeking entry into Canada at the Sprague port of entry and was referred for secondary examination. Border services officers examined his electronic devices and discovered suspected child pornography. The officer seized the electronic devices and arrested Mr. Roske.

The case was referred to the CBSA Criminal Investigations Section, where they identified a total of 1,954 images and 389 video files of child pornography belonging to Mr. Roske.

Canada – Canada gives visa-exempt travellers 6 months to comply with electronic travel authorization

The Liberal government has given travellers from visa-exempt countries a six-month grace period to comply with a new pre-screening measure that was set to take effect on March 15, bowing to calls from industry representatives who expressed concerns over the timing of the new requirement.

Some three million travellers flying to or passing through Canada will be required to have what is known as an electronic travel authorization (eTA) prior to boarding their flight, according to the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. The new requirement is intended to make it easier and faster for low-risk travellers to come to Canada.

“However, from March 15, 2016 until fall 2016, travellers who do not have an eTA can board their flight, as long as they have appropriate travel documents, such as a valid passport,” said a notice posted on the Canadian government web site March 3. “During this time, border services officers can let travellers arriving without an eTA into the country, as long as they meet the other requirements to enter Canada.”

The new requirement applies to foreign nationals who don't normally require a visa to travel to Canada such as British, Australian and French citizens, among others, as well as permanent residents of the U.S. However, U.S. citizens and travellers with a valid Canadian visa are exempt from the new requirement. Canadian citizens, dual citizens, and permanent residents of Canada do not need to apply for an eTA.

Travellers can apply for an eTA online by answering a few questions and paying \$7. According to the government, applicants will get their authorization within minutes of submitting the online form. The authorization is electronically linked to the person's passport and is valid for five years or until the passport expires, whichever comes first. (CBC)

Canada – Child porn fugitive arrested at Peace Arch crossing

A Missouri man wanted on child-pornography charges was stopped at the Peace Arch border crossing and turned over to U.S. authorities.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced that Marques Leroy Jones, 32, of Grandview, Mo. – wanted on a National Crime Information Centre warrant for possession of child pornography – was detained by Canada Border Services agents during a routine name check March 7, and escorted back to USCBP custody.

Following confirmation of the warrant, the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office transported the man back to Whatcom county jail to await extradition. (*Peace Arch News*)

Canada – Sniffing out trouble at Halifax Stanfield International Airport

A friendly little dog could get you into a world of trouble at Stanfield Airport if you're carrying food, plant or animal items from out of the country.

Roscoe, a nine-year-old beagle, is trained to sniff out food and plant products in luggage and was showing off his skills as the CBSA welcomed members of the media to an open house to show what the organization does behind the scenes. The seizure of several pounds of an illegal narcotic in February prompted questions about what the agency really does and Roscoe was one of a few demonstrations about the inner workings of keeping the country's borders safe.

The dog's trainer, Brian Devanney, put Roscoe through the motions on some luggage and whenever the dog found something he would sit still on top of or beside the suitcase in question, expectantly waiting on a treat.



"He's enjoying this, I can tell," Devanney said with a laugh as the dog rolled around on its back seemingly showing off for the cameras after the demonstration was over. "He's cute but he does a very serious job here and we're lucky to have him."



The CBSA showed off several of its processes including the Nexus facial recognition system, which had some glitches on this day but the agency's chief of operations Colin Murchison said it works very well at getting travellers through efficiently. Officers showed off X-ray machines and went through routines of readmitting travellers from abroad back into Canada.

"The border officer is generally the first person a traveller sees as they are coming into Canada," said Murchison. "They verify passports and other information and they are trained to detect unusual behaviour."

The unusual behaviour could lead a suspicious traveller to the next step in the system, where they have to go through their luggage with a CBSA officer. Graham Estabrooks examined a



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staged piece of luggage and demonstrated the process, swabbing some of the items and a staged traveller's phone for traces of anything suspicious.

"We'll swab an item like the phone at this stage because we use items that only the (traveller) would have touched," he said. "If we find something they shouldn't have we'll confiscate it and warn them for next time, if we find something more serious we may have to call the RCMP."



Almost as a warning, the next stage of the tour included holding cells complete with benches and metal toilet/sink combinations you'd see in prison. That's right — a jail cell in the Halifax airport. There are no bars but the message is clear: be careful of what you bring back home.

That includes anything inside you. For those smuggling items "the old fashioned way" there's a special toilet in the back room that agents will have you use at the appropriate time while they're holding you that separates what they want from the stuff they don't want. They'll even bring you coffee and lunch while they're waiting.

"That's not a job we like doing and we fortunately don't have to use this room too often, (in busier airports) they use this a

lot more often than we do," said Estabrooks. Murchison added that officers never force suspects to use the facilities, rather, they wait for nature to take its course.

From there it was off to a back room where seized items are stored. Various weapons, such as knives and weapons were on display, alcohol, tobacco, animal products such as peacock feathers could be examined, and two little wooden cars with red taillights, simple children's toys, were also found.

"It's not the wood, it's the little lights," said Murchison. "They're made of a berry not found here that could be poisonous, they could make someone sick or worse."

Berries fall under Roscoe's jurisdiction. Dog treats can work wonders sometimes. (*The Chronicle Herald*)

Canada – CBSA officers find cocaine at the Toronto Pearson International Airport

The Canada Border Services Agency announced the seizure of eight kilograms of cocaine at the Toronto Pearson International Airport.



On March 13, CBSA officers monitoring the offload of luggage on a flight originating from Curacao noticed an unclaimed black suitcase with a seemingly recycled airline tag. After opening the suitcase and examining the contents, officers found six brick-shaped bundles. All the bundles were subsequently tested and found to contain cocaine. The cocaine was turned over to Peel Regional Police.

Canada – Officers at YEG help save traveller's life

An Edmonton man is alive today, thanks in part to BSOs' quick action.

On March 16, officers at the Edmonton International Airport (YEG) played a big role in saving the life of a traveller who had collapsed pre-PIL after arriving off a flight from Palm Springs.

BSOs responded immediately to assess the client and contacted EMS and alerted the on-duty public health nurse. They also set up privacy screens, and went to public area to find the traveller's daughter who was waiting for her parents outside of the CBSA area and brought her to her father.

The public health nurse and an off-duty EMT, who was a passenger on the flight, detected no pulse or respiration. They deployed the automated external defibrillator device from the pre-PIL area. When the device was ineffective, they initiated CPR and continued until paramedics arrived. The traveller regained consciousness before being transported to the hospital.

Kudos to Christy Murphy-Fougere, Bill McManners, Dan Rawlyk, Deanna Waite and Carmen Miller, as well as the officers who continued to clear that busy flight in a very professional manner!

Canada – Officers give emergency assistance to traveller, Quebec Region

On the night of March 17 to 18, while processing travellers arriving from Puerto Vallarta, in Mexico, BSOs demonstrated commendable poise and quick execution of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) manoeuvres on a traveller who collapsed in front of the primary inspection line at Jean-Lesage International Airport.



When the traveller had presented himself at primary, after all other passengers, Officer Alain Roy moved towards him because he appeared to feel uneasy. The man then collapsed to the floor. Officer Richard Létourneau responded to Officer Roy's call and administered the resuscitation manoeuvres on the man while Officer Mathieu Morissette assisted them.

After a few minutes, the man regained consciousness. During this time, airport authority first respondents arrived and then paramedics transported the traveller to a hospital.

Officer Létourneau has accumulated more than 26 years of service with the CBSA, in addition to having

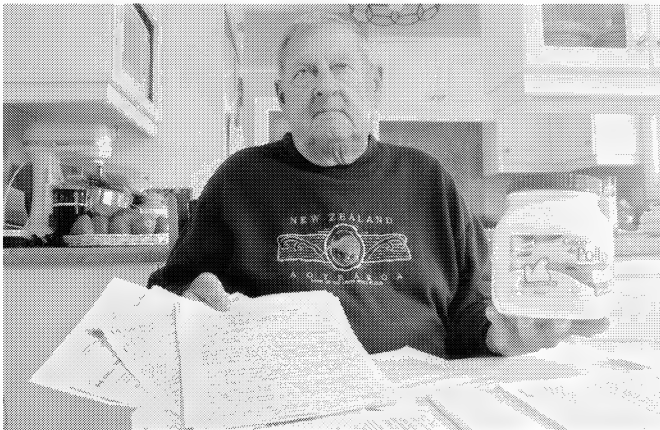


ambulance training. Officer Roy served with the Canadian Forces in many missions, in addition to having emergency health response training. As for Officer Morissette, he just completed his recruit training at the CBSA College in Rigaud.

The three officers as well as their colleagues who were present during the incident demonstrated a high degree of vigilance and succeeded in aiding this passenger thanks to their quick response and their professionalism.

Canada – Chicken soup costs Niagaran \$800

No soup for you, Raymond Kolochuk. That's because a chicken soup mix that was purchased by a St. Catharines man and his wife while on vacation in Mexico two years ago never made it into Canada. And while it has taken two years for a decision to be reached on this matter, it might not be over because there is yet another step in the appeal process.



Kolochuk paid about \$39 for the Knorr Caldo de Pollo soup mix in 2014, but it could turn out to be the most expensive soup mix he has ever purchased. Unless his case is reconsidered, the Canada Border Services Agency says he owes them a fine of \$800.

"I almost dropped the phone when I heard the amount of the fine," said Kolochuk. "This was such an innocent thing. I had no idea it was against the rules to import the soup mix and that's why I failed to declare it."

Years ago, a friend gave him a container of the soup mix, he liked it and that's why he purchased some to bring home.

According to documents from CBSA, Kolochuk committed a violation under section 40 of the Health of Animals Regulations. That section prohibits people from "importing into Canada an animal by-product, manure or a thing containing an animal by-product."

When Kolochuk returned to Canada in March 2014 from his trip to Mexico, one piece of his luggage did not arrive at the Toronto Pearson International Airport. The next day he received a phone call and was told the luggage was held up at customs. He was told it was against regulations to bring in the chicken soup mix into Canada.

Kolochuk was told he could pay the \$400 and it would be over with, or he could contest it, but if he lost, the fine would then be \$800. "I thought I had a good care of protesting it because I was totally unaware that this product was prohibitive (sic)," said Kolochuk. "This was not going out to the public. It was going into our kitchen cupboard and used in a soup pot."

In addition to CBSA, the case also involved the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and a hearing before the Canada Agricultural Review Tribunal. A hearing was held in St. Catharines in March, but Kolochuk was not able to attend to give his side of the story because he was away on vacation for the last three months.

Kolochuk asked his neighbour to pick up his mail, which did contain registered letters advising him of the date for the hearing, but by the time he read those notices, the hearing had already been held. It wasn't until Kolochuk received a call from a newspaper reporter asking about the decision that he heard about the hearing.

A spokesperson for CBSA said in an e-mail officials seized several containers of undeclared chicken soup mix in Kolochuk's luggage. "Many travellers are unaware that all food products must be declared to CBSA officers. Cer-

tain food products can introduce harmful pests, viruses and diseases to Canada. When undeclared food products are found, they are seized and the traveller may have to pay a penalty.”

Border officials advise that if a traveller is unsure whether a good is allowed, they should declare the item.

Kolochuk has inquired about appealing the tribunal's decision and was told it will cost \$50 to process the paperwork. He plans to file the necessary paperwork. (*Editor's note: Next time just declare the damn soup.*)

Canada – Truck driver jailed for loaded handgun at border

A long-distance truck driver from New Jersey, who crossed into Canada at the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie with a loaded prohibited handgun, has been sentenced to an additional 136 days in jail.

Shannon Mitchell, 42, appeared in the Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines on March 18 and pleaded guilty to possession of a loaded firearm, breach of a court order not to have any weapons, and making a false statement under the *Customs Act*.

The offences took place at about 7 p.m. on Jan. 11 when Mitchell came into Canada while on his way to make a delivery in Toronto. He was arrested at the border and has spent the last 68 days in pretrial custody.

Assistant Crown attorney Bob Mahler said the accused told border officials he had no weapons in his vehicle, but a search of the sleeper cab turned up a loaded .22-calibre semi-automatic pistol with six rounds of ammunition in the magazine. The gun was in a holster, and there was a second magazine also containing six rounds. An additional 100 rounds of ammunition were also found in the truck's sleeping quarters.

The gun is a prohibited weapon in Canada because it had a shorter barrel.

The Crown said Mitchell is an American, but he is also a permanent resident in Canada. He also had an outstanding warrant in British Columbia from 2012, and was not to be in possession of any weapons.

Mahler said the courts have become more strict on gun crimes. In the Niagara area, he added, there are a number of American citizens who come to Canada, but they do not declare their firearms.

The Crown noted this was not a case of a naive American coming into the country and not being aware of Canadian laws because Mitchell is a Canadian resident and has been coming to Canada since 2007. “He knows not to come to Canada with a loaded gun and he was also under a court order. If he had declared it he would have been sent back,” said Mahler, who suggested a jail sentence of 12 to 18 months.

Defence lawyer Andrew Burton said his client is licensed to carry the firearm in New Jersey. If he had declared it, Mitchell would have been sent back to New York State, where he was not allowed to have it.

Burton said Mitchell was working, it was not a case of him having a gun because he was involved in criminal activity. Burton suggested a sentence of time served. The 68 days of pretrial custody would be credited at 104 days, which he suggested was sufficient.

And while he lied to the customs officer about having a weapon, there was no intention to smuggle it across the border, said Burton. “Bringing the weapon was a mistake,” he said.

Judge Joseph Nadel said the Crown and defence took drastically different positions. Defence asked for time served, while the Crown recommended a hefty jail sentence.

The judge said this was not the case of an American tourist coming into Canada and not declaring a weapon. Mitchell is a professional truck driver who was bringing goods into Canada and he knew the rules. Nadel said in the past, courts have imposed short jail sentences for these types of offences, but that has not achieved what was intended because these types of cases in border communities are actually increasing.

Nadel also pointed out that lying to a customs officer about not having any cigarettes or alcohol is quite different than lying about a gun. The judge said the message needs to go out that if a person brings a gun into Canada they will get tougher penalties.

Mitchell was sentenced to 60 days on the customs charge, 30 days for the breach charge and five months for possession of the weapon. After calculating Mitchell's pretrial custody, he was sentencing to a further 136 days in jail. (*Niagara Falls Review*)

Canada – Coutts port-runner sentenced to 30 days in jail

On March 13, BSO Kelsey Hill determined that a U.S. man travelling with his Canadian fiancée was inadmissible as a visitor to Canada. He had an assault conviction, lack of funds, and two previous Allowed to Leave documents on record. Moreover, he claimed he had been living in Canada – even though there was no record of his entry on file. Based on these factors, Kelsey gave him another opportunity to withdraw his application to enter Canada and counselled him on procedures for applying for rehabilitation and establishing himself in the United States. His fiancée agreed to drive him back to the U.S., but when their vehicle neared the turnoff, it sped up to continue northbound. Officers sounded the port-runner alarm, but to no avail.

RCMP did successfully locate the vehicle, noting the travellers appeared to have taken side roads to avoid detection, and returned to the POE with the subjects approximately two hours later. Police seized the vehicle as it was not registered and had no insurance, and CBSA Criminal Investigations laid *IRPA* charges against the U.S. man for obstructing an officer in their duties and failing to verify his departure from Canada.

"This was high-risk traffic in that we may never have gotten another chance to deal with him," says Criminal Investigator Scott Maccumber. "He may have just disappeared into Canada."

On March 18, [redacted] pleaded guilty to both charges in Lethbridge Provincial Court and was sentenced to 30 days in jail with credit for time served. Scott says this length is in line with a similar sentence in a separate case for crossing between POEs that was issued the week before.

Kelsey says processing this traveller was complex, but that she is glad to see the positive enforcement result. Supt. Darren Cahoon notes that these types of cases are few and far between, but says the officers relied on normal procedures and did everything just right.

Following [redacted] release, Inland Enforcement will coordinate his removal from Canada.

Canada – As summer approaches, enforcement ramps up for SASSD

It seems there is never a dull moment in the Southern Alberta and Southern Saskatchewan District (SASSD). On any given day of the month, someone somewhere is either seizing handguns, stopping child pornography, or dealing with complex *IRPA* cases:

On March 1, Coutts BSOs Cheaton Virk, Matthew Patching, Kaitlyn McIntyre, Levi Nye, and Tyler Erickson were involved in the seizure of a loaded .380-calibre pistol and 26 overcapacity magazines from [redacted] moving to Alaska. Levi met the traveller at primary, where he declared seven long guns and claimed he had previously shipped his handguns, but came across as extremely nervous. At secondary, he tried to change his declaration to six guns, saying that he had miscounted. An examination of his SUV and subsequent X-rays turned up the handgun in a backpack in the trunk, while the rest of the magazines were in the trailer. [redacted] faces 13 Criminal Investigations charges and is scheduled to appear in Lethbridge Provincial Court on April 20.



A similar seizure at Coutts on March 19 revealed a prohibited .25-calibre handgun in a backpack in the backseat of a pickup, with the magazine concealed under a floor mat. BSOs Winston Blackmore, Donald Leier, and Tyler Erickson executed this enforcement action, and while the traveller was not charged, he was issued a \$1,000 conveyance penalty before he continued into Canada.

North Portal recorded two child pornography seizures in March, the first by BSOs Jacqueline Woo, Jay T McGee, Cameron Risdale, and Toban Tisdale on March 8. On March 26, Jacqueline and Jay T worked alongside BSOs Kevin Roche, Warren Insell, and Lee Bagarozza in an even more significant seizure of child pornography.

"It seems like we're getting more and more of these now,"
 so I really take pride in arresting [alleged offenders]."

Officers uncovered suspected images on two of the man's five laptops, which were transferred to the Saskatchewan Internet Child Exploitation Unit (Sask ICE) along with two hard drives. Kevin notes that Sask ICE technicians indicated the subject

under the *Criminal Code* in Estevan

Provincial Court on April 4 and was sentenced to one year in jail.

Wild Horse officers didn't make a child pornography seizure, but turned a male traveller away who had been convicted on three counts of possession. He arrived at the POE on March 1 to work in Canada but was not in possession of a work permit, and was also a registered sex offender.

"It's always a good day when you keep someone out of Canada who has a record like that," says BSO Ryan Meyer, who was working with processing BSOs Adam Lingenfelter and Kristin Phillips that day. "
 you want to make sure who you're letting in won't harm other children."

The traveller later tried to enter at Aden that same day and was refused entry again.

Another interesting case occurred at Carway, when officers seized a man's permanent resident document on March 2 after uncovering evidence that he misrepresented himself in his application and may be attempting to bring other foreign nationals to Canada through a marriage of convenience. He was still allowed to enter Canada on a valid work permit pending further investigation of his case.

BSOs in Division 3 (from POEs Oungre to Carievale) were responsible for 46 *IRPA* enforcement cases, including an Allowed to Leave at Estevan Highway for possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute, and one at Oungre for aggravated assault. In western Saskatchewan at West Poplar River, CBSA officers refused entry to a U.S. woman for embezzlement, battery, and false personation.

Canada – Man fined after tossing loaded handgun onto POE parking lot

It was a last-ditch attempt to avoid detection that didn't quite pan out.

On March 21, a traveller bound for Alaska failed to declare a prohibited .45-calibre handgun to primary BSO Kevin Roche at North Portal, and once notified that officers would be verifying his declaration, tried to distance himself from the evidence. While complying with an officer's request to drive his moving van to the examination garage for a vehicle search, the man tossed the loaded gun out of the van onto the parking-lot pavement.



The lethal weapon didn't stay there for long, as members of the public reported the pistol to CBSA staff. Officers secured the firearm immediately but initially did not know where it had come from. However, a review of CCTV footage revealed the subject nonchalantly dropping the gun out of his vehicle. He was arrested and initially denied ownership of the gun, but once informed of the video evidence, confessed that it was his and that he had dropped it because he did not want officers to find it.

Breeman Neal Ainsworth Jr. pleaded guilty to Criminal Investigations charges of



making false statements under the *Customs Act* and unauthorized possession of a handgun in a motor vehicle under the *Criminal Code*, and was sentenced to time served while remanded and a \$10,000 fine. Criminal Investigator Mark Ermel says in his nine years in the position, he had never before dealt with a case like this.

"I'm sure it did [impact the sentencing], that event with the loaded gun in the public domain," he says. "Someone could have picked it up and never said anything."

Kudos to BSOs Lee Bagarozza and Jeff Street on making the significant seizure. In addition to the undeclared handgun, they also seized a prohibited switchblade from the vehicle console. Following his conviction, North Portal officers transported Ainsworth from the courtroom back to the POE, where he was reported inadmissible, issued a deportation order, and returned to the United States.

Canada – Australian caught with cocaine at Osoyoos border hopes to remain in Canada

An Australian man who has fallen in love with Canada will have to wait and see if an absolute discharge on a drug possession charge in Penticton court will affect his ability to acquire citizenship. Cameron Reid, 32, appeared in Penticton court March 21, on a charge of cocaine possession following an incident at the Osoyoos border crossing last year.

Crown Prosecutor Ginger Holmes says Reid was at the Osoyoos crossing on July 26, 2015 driving a Ford F350 pickup when he was referred to secondary inspection after being unable to show proof of Canadian residency, presenting only an Australian driver's license. A search of Reid's truck revealed seven grams of cocaine, which resulted in a charge and his release on a promise to appear.

In a joint submission prepared by Crown and defence lawyer Shledon Pinx, Holmes told Judge Gale Sinclair Reid had completed 30 hours of community work service and recommended an absolute discharge on the matter.

Pinx told court his client, originally from Perth, Australia, had gone to Whistler on a snowboarding holiday and had fallen in love with Canada. He was on his way to a music festival in Osoyoos when he re-routed his travel plans due to a marathon. His GPS program directed him into the United States by accident, and he was returning to Canada in Osoyoos when he was flagged for secondary inspection.

Pinx says his client was hoping to remain in the country, and wished to apply for a more permanent form of residency, adding he was looking at going into a possible business partnership. He says since the incident his client had "completely disassociated himself from drug use."

Judge Gale Sinclair agreed to the joint submission, giving Reid an absolute discharge. Reid will have to pay a \$100 victim surcharge fee.

2 Comments



John McDaniel
Studying at Student

He should have gotten jail and then ejected from Canada on the grounds the he supported organised crime. And as far as the \$100, not even a drop in the bucket to facilitate treatment in a recovery setting for 4 hours. Shame on the courts.



Diane Maureen Pleasance
University College of the Cariboo

What a crock!

Canada – YVR tightens security in response to Brussels bombings

Officials at Vancouver International Airport say they are working with police, Canadian Border Services Agency staff and others to ensure a heightened level of security.



Vice-president of operations Steve Hankinson said on March 22 people will not notice more police officers and dog teams at the airport, but he wouldn't go into further detail. "Beyond that for obvious reasons we don't disclose the details of our security practices but it's multi-layered and we have a comprehensive program to ensure everyone is safe and secure at YVR."

Hankinson confirmed there are no delays or cancellations at Vancouver International Airport following the deadly bombings in Brussels that killed at least 34 people. He said

none of their flights to Europe are affected, and they don't have any direct flights to Belgium. Nevertheless anyone travelling to Europe should be prepared for widespread travel disruptions and heightened security that may cause delays.

Vancouver police and the Transit Police are also stepping up security by increasing police presence throughout the city. (CBC)

Canada – EDI referral leads to the interception of 1,500+ switchblades

Officers in southern Saskatchewan made a number of important enforcement actions last month, and near the top of the list was the seizure of a commercial shipment of 1,612 prohibited switchblades. BSO Nat Collins referred the shipment while completing EDI Re-Directs at the Aden, AB POE, and on March 24, officers at North Portal followed up by conducting a complete offload of a commercial trailer with multiple shipments on-board. Inside, they found boxes full of knives, the vast majority being prohibited switchblades.

A/Supt. Tina Longney says officers began the lengthy examination at the CBSA's facility in Estevan, beginning at 9 a.m. and finishing after 4 p.m. "It was a long day for them and they persevered and pushed through," she says. "It was an excellent pick by [BSO Collins] and we are very pleased that he sent it to us."

BSOs Lennie Davies and Yaro Turchmanovych along with Detector Dog Handler Toban Tisdale did the offload examination. Penalties under the Administrative Monetary Penalty System are still pending, and Regina Criminal Investigations has referred the case to its counterparts in the Pacific Region for follow-up investigation, as the importer is located in B.C.



As stated in Memorandum D19-13-2, businesses cannot import prohibited weapons or devices unless they possess a valid firearms business licence that allows their importation. In this case, the prohibited goods were declared as folding knives.

Canada – Surrey man gets three years for his part in drug smuggling plot

A Surrey man has been sentenced to three years in jail for his part in an elaborate million-dollar drug smuggling scheme.

Jagtar Singh Dehal, a 49-year-old permanent resident of Canada who immigrated from India 29 years ago, had been convicted of possessing ketamine for the purpose of trafficking. Dehal was arrested on June 3, 2012, after an RCMP sting operation.

On May 25, 2012, officers of the Canada Border Services Agency (John Mawhinney and Balinder West) had intercepted a cargo crate that arrived at Vancouver International Airport on a commercial flight from India. CBSA officers opened the crate and took apart a roller conveyor unit. Inside the unit's nine rollers they found 23.15 kilograms of ketamine.

After being notified by CBSA, the RCMP removed most of the ketamine and replaced it with a look-alike substance. They also installed a tracking device and a silent alarm inside the roller with the real ketamine bag.

The crate was picked up from the airport on May 31, 2012, and transported to three locations before Dehal arrived in the alley of a house on East 36th Avenue in Vancouver on June 2, 2012. Police observed him take apart the unit and then transport the nine rollers to his house in Surrey, taking counter-surveillance driving measures on the way.

Dehal had removed two bags of the fake ketamine before tripping the alarm attached to the third bag containing real ketamine, a fast-acting animal anesthetic that in humans creates a euphoric dreamlike state and is also used as a date-rape drug.

Because of Dehal's immigration status, a sentence of six months or more means he is subject to deportation proceedings without the right of appeal. Justice Murray Blok said he took that into consideration, but said defence argument for a sentence of six months less a day would "skew the sentencing process to a wholly inappropriate extent."

Dehal was living apart from his wife and daughter after a recent conviction for domestic violence. An unemployed janitor and handyman, Dehal has past convictions for two alcohol-related driving offences, three thefts, three assaults, two breaches of probation, mischief and uttering threats. Sentences for those convictions involved fines, six probations, a three-month conditional sentence and one day in jail.

Dehal had claimed at his trial on the possession charge that he was an innocent mule who had been duped by an acquaintance, a defence the judge flatly rejected. (*The Vancouver Sun*)

China – Foreign 'heroin smuggler' held

A foreign man was put under criminal detention on suspicion of trying to smuggle heroin into the country, customs authorities said.



The suspect, who was not identified, was apprehended on March 19 at Pudong International Airport while attempting to pass through the nothing-to-declare channel with 689 grams of the narcotic hidden in the soles of his shoes. He told officials he had been offered US\$1,500 to transport the drugs from Pakistan to Guangzhou, and was transiting through Shanghai.

Officials said they had been tracking the suspect for some time, and that the purity of the drug found in his possession was 45.2 percent. (*Shanghai Daily*)

Dubai, UAE – Man who used forged passport to board Dubai flight is jailed

A man who used a forged British passport in an attempt to leave Dubai for Switzerland has been sentenced to six months in jail. SD, 43, from Afghanistan, was convicted of forgery and use of a forged document.



Prosecutors said he bought the passport for US\$2,000 then forged it by adding Dubai International Airport entry and exit stamps and by removing the personal information page and adding his data in its place. "Yes, I bought the passport from a man in Afghanistan knowing it's forged, then I used it. I know the contact numbers and information of the man who sold it to me back home," he said in court, confessing to all charges.

SD was arrested on October 22 last year as he was boarding a plane to Switzerland.

Prosecutors said the defendant entered Dubai using his Afghani passport but then mistakenly used it again while trying to leave the country on the day of the incident. He then showed the British passport as he tried to board the plane, alerting Swiss Airlines security, who immediately knew it was forged and reported SD.

Emirati AA, 33, an officer at Dubai Naturalisation and Residency Department stationed at the airport, testified that security handed the defendant to him. "He said he was trying to get to Europe, specifically Zurich, and it is very hard to get the visa using his Afghani passport," said AA. He will be deported after serving his jail term.

Dubai, UAE – Woman jailed for forging stamps on her passport

A woman has been jailed for three months for tampering with Dubai International Airport's entry and exit stamps on her passport. The 25-year-old Tajik woman, M.D., visited a counter at Dubai airport wanting to check the validity of her visa when a residency officer discovered the forgery on her travel document in November.

The Dubai Court of First Instance convicted M.D. of forging her passport although she had contended that it was her envious friend who had tampered with the stamps on her passport and not her. "I did not forge the entry and exit stamps ... it must have been one of my jealous friends who did it," said M.D. as she entered an innocent plea.

Presiding judge Fahd Al Shamsi said the accused will be deported.

When asked why her friend would forge the stamps on her passport, M.D. said: "I don't know, maybe out of envy. My passport and visa are valid and I have no trouble travelling to and from the UAE. Why would I forge the stamp and land myself in trouble?"

Records said the accused tampered with the numbers mentioned on one entry stamp and one exit stamp on her passport and using the passport.

An airport residency officer said the woman came to the counter to check the validity of her visa.

"I asked her to give me her passport to check. When I opened the passport, I realised that there were two forged stamps [entry and exit]. The written dates had been tampered with on two pages. On checking the e-system, there were no records to show that she had entered or exited through the airport on the mentioned dates. Upon confronting her, she claimed that she had not seen the stamps before. She denied being responsible for the forgery," testified the officer. (*Gulf News*)

Dubai, UAE – Man tries to leave UAE with friend's passport

A Pakistani, who used another person's passport while trying to leave the UAE, was sentenced to six months in jail. The Dubai Criminal Court of First Instance also ordered SA, 31, to pay Dh3,000 as fine for claiming to be another person. SA will be also deported after serving his jail term.

SA posed as FM at Dubai International Airport when he submitted a genuine passport that carried the name of FM and claimed to be FM. The officer suspected the picture on the passport was not that of the passenger standing in front of him. However, the passenger insisted that he was the same person whose picture was in the passport.

The officer found out that the passenger had entered the country three weeks earlier through Sharjah International Airport using FM's passport and visit visa. The passenger was referred to the airport security who found out that the passport was not that of the passenger.

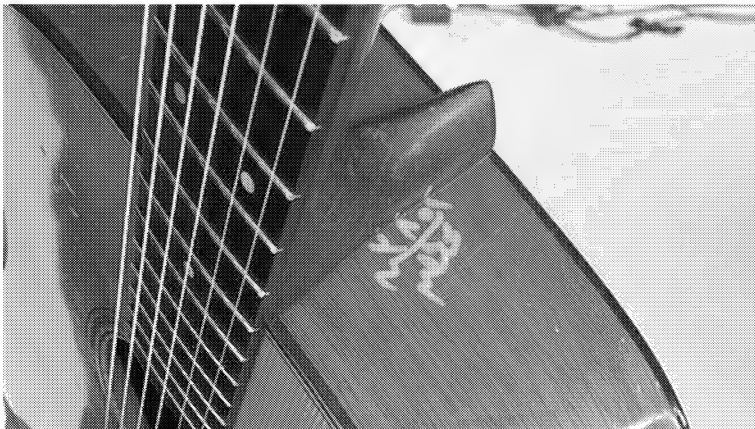
The passenger admitted that his name was SA and that FM had given him his passport and visa before coming to the UAE. He used his friend's passport and visa to visit the UAE, but records did not mention the reason.

Criminal Evidences reported that the picture on the passport was not of the accused. It was also reported that the passport was genuine. (Emirates 24/7)

Egypt – Bryan Adams: Cairo airport officials ‘defaced’ my vintage guitar

“Summer of ‘69” may have been the best days of Bryan Adams’ life, but the Canadian singer isn’t too happy about the spring of 2016. His entire collection of instruments — including his prized vintage guitar — was “defaced” by customs officials at an airport in Egypt, the singer said.

Adams said he was traveling through Cairo International Airport on March 8 ahead of an outdoor concert at the Pyramids.



After initially “refusing to release the equipment” with “zero” explanation, customs officials finally returned the instruments — which had been scrawled on with green indelible marker, according to the singer. This was likely “some sort of customs clearance identification,” Adams added.

He took to Instagram to show the marking on his most prized instrument — a 1957 Martin D-18 guitar worth thousands of dollars.

“The problem is, it’s a vintage guitar [from] 1957 and the outside of old instruments is fragile,” he said via his Facebook account.

The instruments “were all marked — even my harmonicas! So silly,” Adams added.

A source at the airport said that the incident was “nothing new, the system is the same.” The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said: “We mark it to be sure the same item that came in the country left the country.”

He was keen to stress that the incident had “not dampened my love for Egypt — I love the country and its people” but said that was “just extremely unfortunate that the customs people at the airport had no respect for our musical instruments.” (CNBC)

Egypt – Egypt destroys a long smuggling tunnel in the Sinai

The Egyptian border guard destroyed a three kilometer long tunnel between Rafah, Egypt and the Gaza Strip, one of the longest tunnels discovered at the border between the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula, according to



Canada Border
Services Agency

Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada



Egyptian security sources March 31.

The tunnel's opening point, located in the house of an Egyptian smuggler from the Al Barazeel neighborhood in Rafah, Egypt is made out of concrete and steel. In addition to high quality engineering equipment, lighting, generators and communications devices were found.

Armaments such as mortars were found inside the tunnel. Egyptian security sources did not rule out the possibility that this tunnel was intended for military purposes. (*Ynet News*)

France – Unaccompanied 8-year-old held at Paris airport for 10 days because of false identity papers

An unaccompanied eight-year-old has spent the last 10 days living at an airport in Paris after he tried to enter France with false identity papers. The boy, from the Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean, had been placed on the flight by his mother and was expecting to join relatives in France when he arrived.

The unnamed child carrying just a Spiderman backpack was arrested by customs officials at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport on 21 March. He was detained in an airport holding area, ordinarily used for adults suspected of committing similar offences.

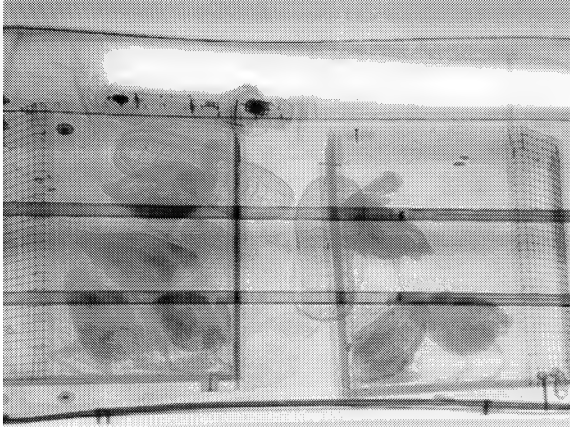
French media say that he was put on the plane on the islands, off the coast of Africa, by his mother hoping that he would have a better life in France. He allegedly produced a French passport in the name of his cousin. The boy was presented to a French appeal court on 25 March that ruled he must be held in a "waiting zone" for his own protection.

The French interior ministry said the boy's mother had now asked for her child to be sent back to the Comoros Islands. They added that the Easter holidays had delayed the process of sending him home and they wanted to organise for someone to accompany him back. (*International Business Times*)

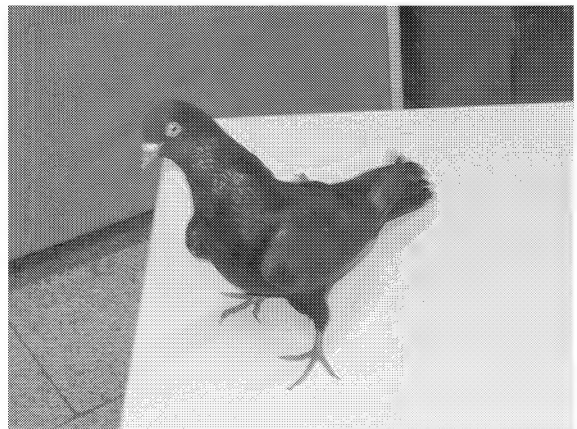
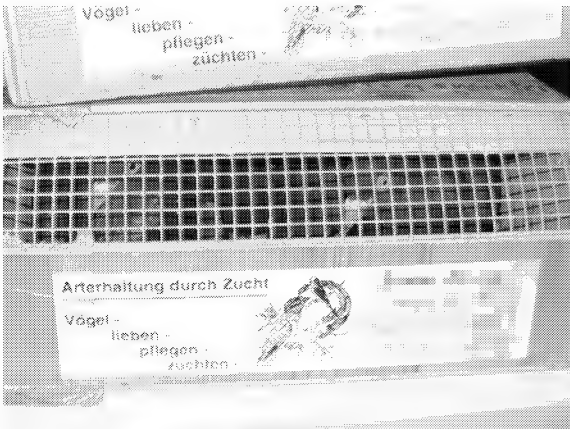
Germany – X-ray scanner finds LIVE birds inside suitcase at arrivals in Dusseldorf

German customs officials found live birds inside a suitcase when they carried out a random X-ray check in Dusseldorf. The seven pigeons were being smuggled by a 37-year-old man from Turkey into Germany when they showed up on a scan of his luggage.

Officials at Dusseldorf Airport had been carrying out a routine control in the customs check area after the man had tried to go out through the green 'nothing-to-declare' exit. The pigeons had been squashed into tiny cartons and packed into the suitcase to be transported into the country. One of the boxes was even printed with the slogan: 'Birds, Treat With Care.'



A customs official said: 'The traveller was behaving suspiciously when asked about the contents of the suitcase, and he made no reference to the live animals inside.' After carrying out the X-ray, the officials discovered the live birds inside.



The pigeons were immediately freed and placed into quarantine because the man did not have any of the necessary paperwork. The Turkish national is now facing a four-figure fine for the attempted smuggling of the live animals. (*Daily Mail*)

Germany – Woman had 1kg of cocaine in breast implants, say German officials following smuggling arrest

A Colombian woman (24) was arrested at Frankfurt airport after she was found to be carrying 1 kg (2.2 pounds) of cocaine inside her breasts, German customs officials said. Airport officials became suspicious after they found fresh operation scars below the woman's breasts following a medical exam after she complained about severe pain in her chest.

The woman admitted to carrying drugs, which had been inserted into her body during a hastily arranged operation. She was sent to a local hospital where doctors removed two 500-gram lumps of cocaine wrapped in plastic from each of her breasts.

The drugs were destined for Spain, a customs spokesman said. "This is the first case in Germany in which drugs have been smuggled in this fashion," said spokesman Hans-Juergen Schmidt.

Customs agents were shocked by what they said was the amateurish surgery. Mr Schmidt said it showed how drugs smugglers "are completely indifferent to human life and the life-threatening conditions of their drug carriers."



The woman, who said she has three children in Colombia where she worked in agriculture, will be charged with drug trafficking and faces jail time. (*Irish Independent*)

Germany – The secret life of checked luggage

Airline passengers nowadays rarely see their checked luggage being subject to security inspections, but behind the scenes at a modern airport there are entire security teams that do nothing but examine bags before loading.



After a suitcase is checked in at the front desk, it travels on a conveyer belt and lands at an inspection unit, explains Christian Altenhofen of the German border police directorate at Frankfurt Airport.

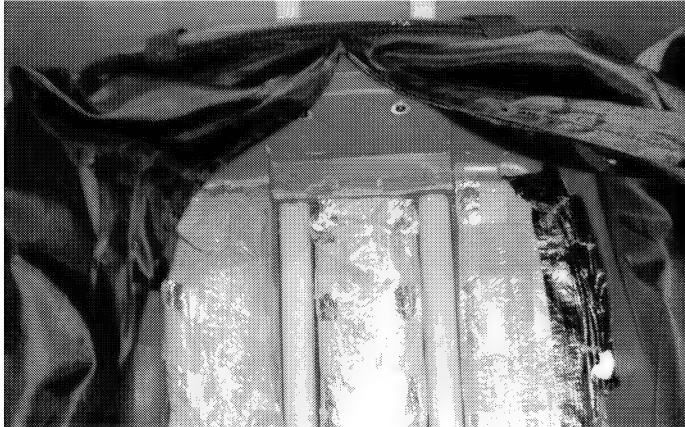
The process is mainly automated in Europe. Scanning machines use rays to survey luggage for a multitude of suspicious items. If such an item is detected, the bag will be re-examined at a series of devices. If the machines still cannot identify the item as safe, then an aviation security official must open and check the bag, Altenhofen said. They have means to open or break luggage locks.

If something suspicious is found inside, the airport police are notified and the passenger is summoned. If, for

example, there is an uncommon fluid in the suitcase, the passenger can then be asked to explain what it is.

“Recently we had chocolate that was packed together with a smartphone,” Altenhofen recalled. On the scanners, it looked like a bomb. Chocolate resembles the organic material of explosives in X-rays, while a smartphone could double as a timer. Security takes no chances. “In extreme cases, bomb-disposal technicians are called in,” Altenhofen said.

In nearly all cases, questions about items are cleared up in time for the bags to make it on board the scheduled airplane. The passengers will only be made aware that their suitcase needed to be opened by a note left in their bag by the friendly security people.



Greece – Athens airport authorities make heroin bust

A 30-year-old woman was arrested at Athens International Airport on March 27 for trying to smuggle 2.2 kilos of heroin into the country.

The suspect, who arrived from Johannesburg, had three packages of the drug hidden in the lining of her suitcase. (*Ekathimerini*)

Guyana – Cubans fined over forged US Green Cards

Two Cuban nationals were each fined \$70,000 on March 4 after pleading guilty to charges that they presented forged US Green Cards to an immigration officer.

Roberto Francisco and Lewis Vasco, who spoke little English, were each read a charge that on March 3, at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport, they uttered forged US Permanent Resident Cards in favour of themselves to immigration officer Akeem Stewart, reporting same to have been issued by the US. Francisco, 46, and Vasco, 28, both pleaded guilty to the charges after they were translated by an immigration officer.

The court heard that both men were en route to Miami and were issued the documents in Cuba. It was further stated that the defendants had no knowledge that the documents were false as both men have tickets to travel to the US.

Chief Magistrate Ann McLennan fined the defendants \$70,000 each or four weeks in jail if they were unable to pay the fine. She added that they were to be escorted to the nearest port for deportation after the fine was paid or at the end of time served. (*Stabroek News*)

Guyana – Guyanese model jailed for cocaine trafficking



A Guyanese model was jailed on March 8 for attempting to traffic cocaine-in-achar to the United States more than one year ago. Magistrate Leron Daley sentenced 41-year old Sadeeka Leona Odie to four years imprisonment and fined her GYD\$30,000.

She was nabbed at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport by agents of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit on February 8, 2014, with 9.27 kilogrammes of cocaine concealed in mango achar. Odie had pleaded not guilty to the offence when she was arraigned at the Georgetown Magistrates' Court.

Investigators had found out that the single mother of five children had been paid an advance of US\$4,000 and a plane ticket that had been purchased by a man from Republic Park, East Bank Demerara. (*Demerara Waves*)

Hong Kong – Customs officer kills self with service revolver at airport

A customs official was found dead with a gunshot wound to his head at the Hong Kong International Airport on March 1. Police said the 52-year-old man, surnamed Chan, was an apparent suicide.

Customs officers said a few minutes after 12 p.m. they heard a bang from a changing room at the Cathay Pacific air cargo terminal. They rushed to the scene and found Chan lying unconscious on the floor with blood coming from his head. Police officers arrived and paramedics pronounced Chan dead on the spot.

A gunshot wound was seen in Chan's left temple, and a .38 caliber revolver that belonged to him was found beside the body. Colleagues said he was left-handed. Chan left no suicide note.

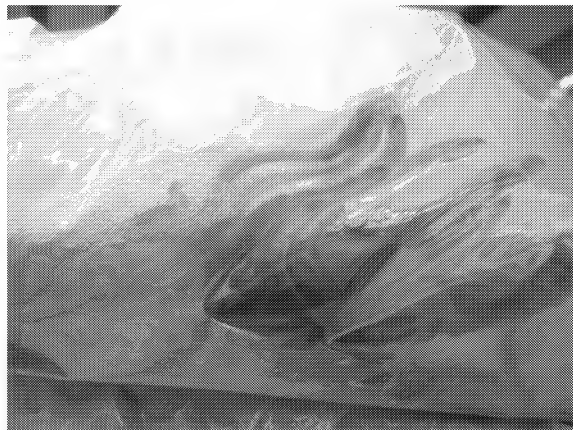
Police believe Chan had killed himself after a review of the video footage from security cameras showed that he had stayed in the changing room for about an hour before the shot rang out, and no suspicious-looking person was seen coming in or going out of the room during the period. There was also no sign of struggle at the scene.

Chan, who was single, had just completed 19 years of service at the Customs and Excise Department on March 1. He had planned to retire in three years. Police were still investigating possible motives. Some colleagues suggested financial troubles while others said he had not been promoted for years.

Chan's apparent suicide using an official gun was the third of its kind in the past month, highlighting the pressure faced by members of the government's disciplined services.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes European eels at airport

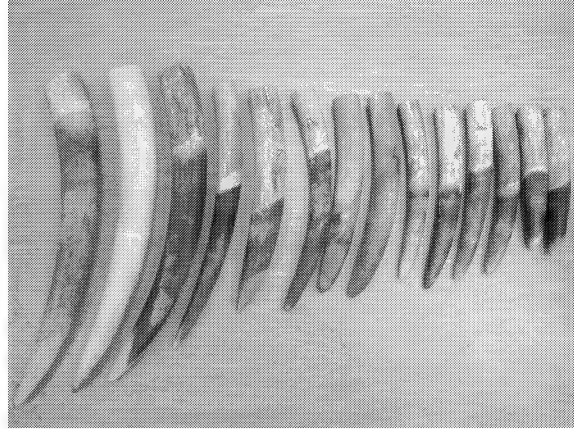
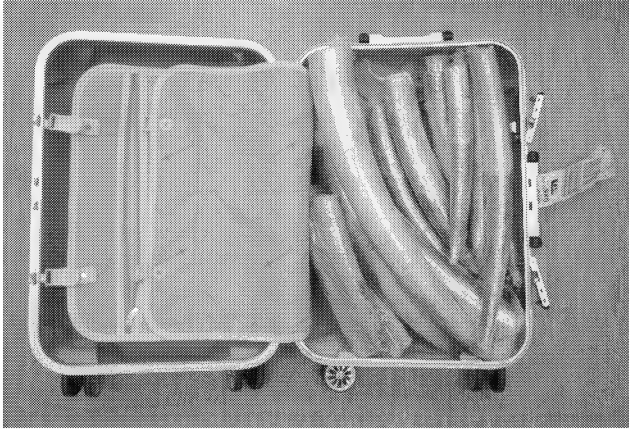
Hong Kong Customs seized about 91 kilogrammes of European eels, an endangered species, and arrested two incoming passengers, a male and a female, at Hong Kong International Airport March 4.



Customs officers conducted Customs clearance on two passengers at the airport March 4. Both passengers arrived in Hong Kong from Vigo, Spain via Madrid, Spain and Amsterdam, the Netherlands. During the clearance, Customs officers found about 91kg of European eels in the passengers' six pieces of checked-in baggage.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes ivory pieces at airport

Hong Kong Customs seized about 10 kilograms of ivory pieces worth about \$100,000 and arrested an incoming male passenger at Hong Kong International Airport March 14.



Customs officers intercepted a suspicious 32-year-old male passenger at the airport March 13. The said passenger arrived at Hong Kong from Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire via Dubai, United Arab Emirates. During Customs clearance, about 10 kilograms of ivory pieces were found inside the passenger's check-in baggage.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Immigration Department wins 2016 Skytrax Award for Best Airport Immigration Service

The Hong Kong Immigration Department (ImmD) has been voted the winner of the Skytrax Award for Best Airport Immigration Service for the second consecutive year in the annual Passenger Survey commissioned by Skytrax, a specialist research agent of the air transport industry. The presentation ceremony was held March 16 in Cologne, Germany.



Skytrax mainly undertakes qualitative audits and research studies for airports and airlines across the globe. The survey was conducted between June 2015 and February 2016 and covered a total of 550 airports worldwide. A total of 13.25 million survey questionnaires on the immigration services of various airports were collected from air passengers of 106 nationalities.

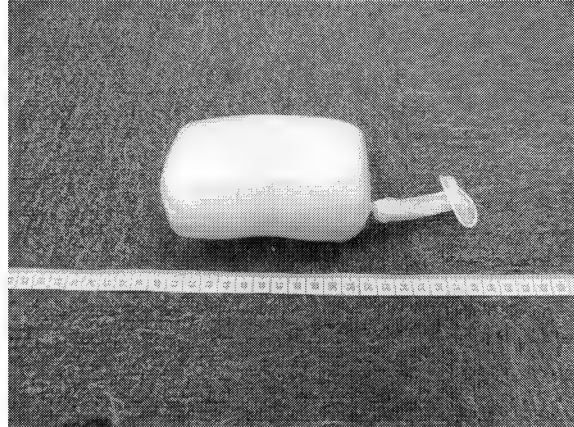
An ImmD spokesperson said the department was delighted to receive this award twice, and will continue to strive for excellence and endeavour to facilitate the coming of visitors to Hong Kong.

Measures such as implementing a non-stamping immigration clearance service and arrangements for reciprocal use of automated immigration clearance services with Korea, Singapore and Germany have helped to shorten passenger clearance time. In addition, the ImmD has made concerted efforts to utilise information technology to enhance the operational efficiency of control points.

The ImmD will continue to upgrade the automated passenger clearance system with a view to enabling the flexible deployment of e-Channel services according to passenger traffic patterns and further enhancing the handling capacity of inbound and outbound passengers.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes cocaine at airport

Hong Kong Customs seized about 1.8 kilograms of cocaine with a market value of about \$2 million at Hong Kong International Airport March 17 and arrested an incoming female passenger.

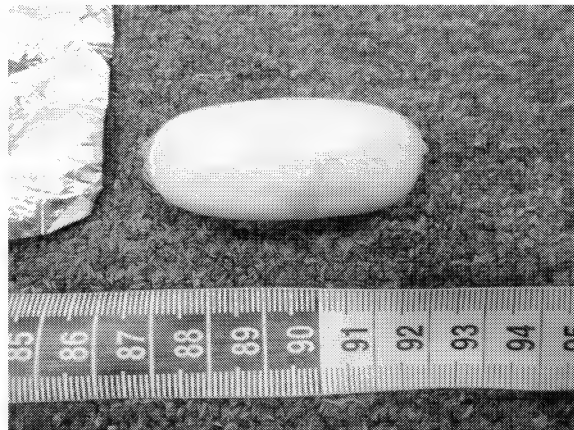
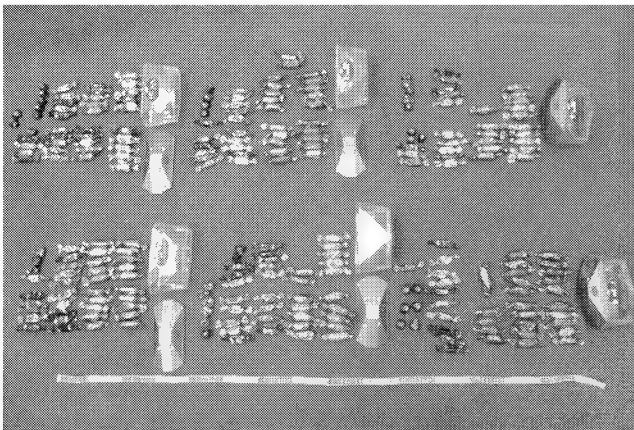


The arrested woman arrived at Hong Kong from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil via Dubai, United Arab Emirates. During personal search, Customs officers found 1 pellet of about 1.4 kilograms of cocaine concealed inside the under-pants she wore. Later upon examination by medical officer, 1 more pellet of about 400 grams of cocaine was found concealed inside her vagina.

The arrested woman, aged 42, who claimed to be a salesperson, was charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes cocaine at airport

Hong Kong Customs seized about 2.1 kilograms of cocaine worth about \$2.3 million at Hong Kong International Airport March 19 and arrested a male passenger in transit.



The man arrived from Johannesburg, South Africa via Dubai, United Arab Emirates March 19 and intended to connect flight to Hanoi, Vietnam. Customs officers intercepted him during patrol at the transit area. He was found to have a plastic bag on hand and there were six candy boxes inside. In-depth examination led to the detection of 110 pellets of cocaine with a total of about 2.1 kilograms, all wrapped as candies.

The arrested man, aged 29 and claimed to be unemployed, was charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug.

Hungary – Hungary declares migrant crisis, sends troops to border

The government in Hungary has sent thousands of soldiers and police officers to the southern border after declaring a state of emergency due to the migrant crisis. The officials are afraid violence may be escalating after the Balkan routes were closed to refugees. Slovenia also made it tougher on refugees when they decided to enact stricter checks.

More than 1500 troops are preparing for clashes in anticipation of migrants trying to get in. Hungary may also build another wall. There are two up already, along the borders with Serbia and Croatia. They claim they can also erect a wall in 10 days on the Hungary-Romania line.



Other countries have followed suit, including Serbia and Croatia. Macedonia closed its border at Idomeni. Human traffickers responded to the tightening of borders by redirecting people through Bulgaria and they have also considered going through Albania.

The European Union has asked Hungary to ease up. Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orbán said his country cannot solve the problem. "We will teach Brussels, the human traffickers and the migrants that Hungary is sovereign country," he said.

India – Immigration officer thrashes flier at Mumbai airport for pointing out mistake

As the chef for a cruise liner, Kishore Shimpi was at sea, thousands of kilometres away, but when he heard about his son's accident and head injury, he desperately began to look for a way to return to family's side in Mumbai. Time was against him; he was in Mexico, but there was no direct flight to Mumbai from there, so he had to first go to Paris and then catch another flight. But what he could not have bargained for was the hours it would cost him to deal with the incompetence and the insensitive treatment he got at the hands of Immigrations officials.

"My son met with an accident, and I was desperate to rush to him after landing at Mumbai airport, but instead I was assaulted, abused and detained for pointing out an error made by an immigration staff at the counter," said the 43-year-old.



On March 1, his flight from Paris (Jet Airways flight 9W 123) arrived at 8.15 am and he rushed towards the immigration section to finish the formalities and leave the airport. But in his distracted state, Shimpi did not notice that the official had wrongly stamped his passport with February 28 as the date of entry.

"I ran towards the immigration area for the required clearance. It had been a long journey for me without any break, and I was completely exhausted," he recalled. It was only when he went forward towards the exit point that another Immigration staffer pointed out the error. Shimpi was asked to go back to the same counter and ask for the correct stamp. And he wasn't the only one facing this problem. "There were four or

five more passengers who had also gone to the same counter number 21, and they too had the same problem. The senior immigration officer asked all of us to go back to the Counter number 21 and get the correct date stamp affixed, and the officer even asked a junior to escort us there," said Shimpi.

They went back to Counter Number 21, where Immigration Constable Deepak Chavan had affixed the wrong stamp. But to Shimpi's dismay, the junior staffer began to joke with Chavan. The junior told the counter in-charge to change the date and quipped that it was not February 28 but February 2. That's when Shimpi lost his temper. "I said in Marathi, '*Kay re zopa kadtai ka tumhi lok* (Are you guys dozing?), today is March 1'. On hearing this, the immigration staffer left his counter, came towards me in a fit of rage and screamed, '*Koop mota jalas ka tu baher gaavi javun* (Have you become too big after visiting foreign country)," Shimpi recounted.

From this point on, the row kept getting uglier, soon turning into fisticuffs. Shimpi alleged that other immigration staffers turned up and held him, after which Chavan was easily able to land punches on him. "I was abused, beaten up and humiliated by the immigration staffer like I was a third-grade criminal," he said.

After a while, few armed CISF personnel escorted Shimpi to their office. "I pleaded with them to release me; asked them to keep my passport but allow me to go to my son in hospital, but my request went unheard. By then, I had already wasted two and half hours after landing," said Shimpi.

An airport doctor was summoned to examine whether he was under the influence of alcohol, and Shimpi was certified sober. Then some immigration staffers took him to the senior officer's cabin. There, the CCTV footage from the incident was reviewed and Shimpi was found in the clear. "After seeing that there had been a lapse on the part of his junior colleague, the senior officer asked me to forget what had happened and assured disciplinary action against the errant staffer. But hours of my time had been wasted, so I submitted a written complaint to the senior, who returned my passport to me with the right date stamp. I also registered a non-cognisable complaint against the staffer at Sahar police station," said Shimpi.

Shimpi could finally leave the airport after noon, and rushed to the hospital in Kalyan, where he learnt that his 19-year-old son, Tushar, had been brought out of the ICU. However, he had received serious head injuries, including a clot in the brain, after falling off a motorbike.

Hours after his complaint, Immigration officials went to the police station to lodge a cross-complaint, but this time, the cops registered an FIR. An official from Sahar police station said, "After the passenger registered an NC and left, the Immigration officials came to register FIR against the passenger around 4 pm. An FIR was registered against the passenger under IPC Sections 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) and 504 (intentional insult)." Assistant Commissioner of Police Suresh Vedak confirmed the FIR, while other cops said they would have to view the CCTV footage to determine what had happened. (*Mid-Day*)

India – BSF guns down Pakistani intruder in Punjab

BSF troopers gunned down a Pakistani intruder along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab's Ferozepur district, a senior BSF official said. The intruder, who was accompanied by another person, was spotted by troopers near the border security fence near Border outpost Dona Raja Deena Nath in Ferozepur sector early on March 4.



On being challenged, the intruders did not stop and the BSF troopers fired on them, said Border Security Force's Deputy Inspector General R.S. Kataria. "One Pakistani intruder was interdicted and one other managed to escape taking cover of wheat crops, wild growth and dense fog. During a search of the area, dead body of one unidentified Pakistani intruder was found ahead of the border security fence," he said.

BSF recovered a mobile phone with a Pakistani SIM card and Pakistani currency.

India – 6.5 kg gold seized from woman at airport

Customs authorities at the airport in Chennai on March 4 seized gold weighing 6.5 kg from a woman and unaccounted cash of Rs 2,000,000 from two men, officials said.

The 38-year-old woman, identified as Jayanthi, arrived by an Air Asia flight from Kuala Lumpur. During checking, a concealment of gold in the form of biscuits in her undergarment was detected, they said. She is being questioned for smuggling gold worth about Rs 21,200,000.

In another case, two men - Abu Backer and Ansari - were detained hours before their departure to Dubai after unaccounted cash of Rs 2,000,000 (\$39,460) was found in their baggage. (*News Today*)

India – Woman held at airport with Rs 20,000,000 worth of gold

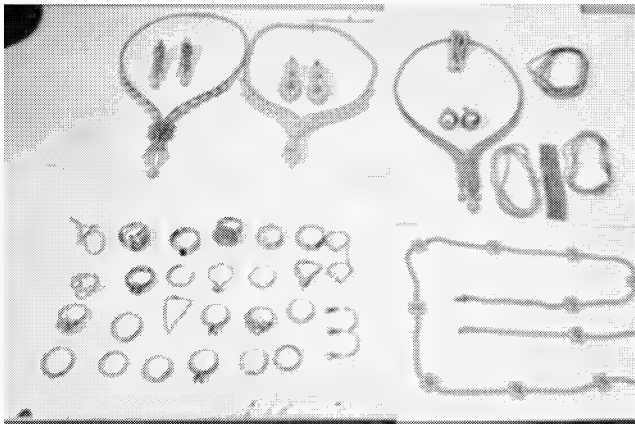
Customs authorities have arrested a 35-year-old woman on charges of trying to smuggle in Rs 20,000,000 (\$394,600) worth of gold into Chennai from Kuala Lumpur.

Police said Sinduja arrived in the city early on March 4 and customs authorities singled her out based on a tip. On checking her baggage, the officials found 65 gold bars.

Sinduja told the police that she was sent to Malaysia on a visitor visa and promised `25,000 to carry the contraband. She said a man in Kuala Lumpur had given her the gold and advised her to act normally in the airport.

India – Man smuggling gold arrested at airport

A 43-year-old man, who was attempting to smuggle gold jewellery worth Rs. 1,284,000 (\$25,333) from Hong Kong, was nabbed by customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in the wee hours of March 6. Investigators suspect that he is a gold smuggler catering to dealers in the city.



Sources in the Customs Air Intelligence Unit at KIA said the man, Mahaveer Chand Lakshmilal Jain, a jewellery dealer, was intercepted by the customs team around 1.30 a.m after he disembarked from a Dragon Airways flight from Hong Kong.

“During our arrival passengers’ profiling, we noticed some suspicious behaviour from the man and he was immediately intercepted before the immigration procedures,” an officer said.

A physical inspection of Jain revealed a cloth pouch hanging underneath his shirt in a string attached to a gold chain he was wearing. “We confiscated the pouch and inspection revealed 40 pieces of assorted 18-karat

gold jewellery weighing 587 grams, estimated to be (worth) around Rs. 1,284,000,” the officer added. There were 26 rings, four earrings, four necklaces and six bracelets. (*The Hindu*)

India – DRI arrests five in Rs 22,000,000 foreign currency smuggling case

The Ahmedabad Directorate of Revenue Intelligence arrested five people on March 9 for smuggling unaccounted foreign currency worth Rs 22,000,000 (\$435,300) at the international terminal of the Ahmedabad airport.



According to DRI sources, two women of the five accused were supposed to carry the foreign currency to Dubai on a SpiceJet flight on March 8.

“We got specific information that five passengers were going to attempt to smuggle a huge amount of foreign currency out of the country through Ahmedabad airport. They were intercepted in the departure area. On questioning, they were unable to provide exact proof of why they were carrying this cash,” said a DRI official.

Out of the five, four passengers -Mohammad Waqar, Mohammad Azhar, Bushra Rahman and Roshni Khan -had arrived in Ahmedabad from Delhi by the Rajdhani Express on March 8. The fifth accused, Rabia Khatoon, arrived by an Air India flight from Delhi, also on March 8. Bushra and Roshni were to carry the foreign currency to Dubai by Spice Jet flight SG 015. The other three, Waqar, Azhar and Rabia, were to leave for Delhi by an Air India flight.

“Both Bushra and Roshni were intercepted while trying to board the flight with the foreign currency. The search of their hand luggage resulted in the recovery of a huge amount of foreign currency, including 225,000 Saudi riyals and 250,000 euros. The value of the foreign currency is approximately Rs 22,000,000,” added DRI official.

Rabia, Azhar and Waqar were also identified and traced by DRI officers in the departure area of the international terminal and detained for questioning. The accused were produced before a magistrate in the evening and sent to judicial custody. According to sources, those arrested are merely carriers and were to deliver the cash in Dubai.

India – South African woman held with Rs 50,000,000 cocaine at IGI airport

A South African woman has been arrested for trying to bring into the country cocaine worth Rs fifty million at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.

The accused was intercepted by the Customs officials after her arrival from Dubai on March 11. The detailed examination of her baggage and personal search resulted in recovery of a white crystalline powder, believed to be cocaine, which was concealed in a false cavity made in the upper part of a trolley bag carried by her, a press release issued by Customs said.

The weight of the recovered cocaine is one kg and its estimated market value is Rs fifty million.

India – Italian held for smuggling hashish

An Italian national carrying 400 plus grams of hashish was stopped minutes before he could board a Brussels-bound flight from the Mumbai airport and handed over to the Air Intelligence unit (AIU) of customs.



Martina Di Fabio, the accused, was stopped by a Jet Airways security staff at the secondary landing point. According to official sources from the AIU, Fabio is a tourist on a holiday to India and he was travelling with the drugs strapped to him. According to the sources he bought the drugs in Goa recently.

A.P.S Suri, principal commissioner of AIU said, "Fabio, who was holding an Italian passport, was headed to Rome via Brussels by Jet Airways flight 9W-228 when he was intercepted and 418 g of hashish, also known as cannabis, in the form of sticks, flakes and paste which were cleverly concealed under his garments, was recovered. The drugs were kept in polythene pouches and stuck with the help of cello tape on the his arms, abdomen, and legs."

He further added, "He was arrested, drugs seized and a case

booked under the *Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act*, 1985." Officials suspect Fabio is a drug addict and had purchased the hashish for himself. (*The Asian Age*)

India – 50 gold coins seized at Amritsar airport

The customs commissionerate recovered 50 gold coins from a passenger at the Shri Guru Ram Das Jee International Airport. The seizure, worth Rs 1,000,000 was made after customs, that had specific information, started the



operation led by its commissioner Capt Sanjay Gahlot.

Deputy commissioner customs (Air Intelligence) Amanjit said, "There was a specific input and as soon as a flight from Dubai landed on the airport, a passenger named Akash Verma was stopped for search. The passenger had hidden the gold consignment in his rectum."

The customs officer informed that each coin weighed 7.97 grams and total cost of the coins was around Rs 1,000,000. (*Hindustan Times*)

India – At least 144 rare turtles seized by Customs officials at Mumbai Airport

Customs officials on March 20 seized 144 tortoises from an unclaimed bag that was left at Mumbai Airport. Out of the 144 turtles, 137 are radiated ones and remaining seven are Angonka Tortoises which will go extinct in the wild in the coming 10 to 15 years. The actual number of tortoises that were seized by the officials is 146 but two of them died due to travelling stress and the officials are looking after the remaining ones.

The authorities are now waiting for permission from Air Mauritius officials to send back the tortoises to Madagascar. Meanwhile, the forest department officials hesitated to carry the species with them thinking that they may spread unknown diseases. Hence, the officials decided to send back the turtles to Madagascar.

According to the sources, an unclaimed bag was in the airport since March 16 but no one took notice of it and on March 20 a GVK officer noticed the bag and informed the jet airways. The airline took the bag into their custody and reported to AIU officials. After opening the bag the officials saw tortoises packed in them.

It is learnt that the smuggler travelled to Mumbai from Madagascar by Air Mauritius flight MK 748 and left to Kathmandu by a Jet Airways flight. An AIU official said that they had talked to airline officials to re-export the turtles under the supervision of local wildlife authorities. He also said that the tortoise was fed with coriander, cabbage and water.

India – Flying in? Declare your drone

International flyers bringing drones into India will now have to declare them with customs. With the remote-controlled flying devices emerging as a major security threat, the government has decided to revise the customs declaration form to include drones in the list of 'prohibited and dutiable' items, with effect from April 1.

Mysterious drone sightings were reported around IGI airport recently, after which the Delhi Police issued an order allowing its men to shoot down any such mysterious object in the no-fly zone. Senior customs officials say the move will ensure stricter vigil and bring to notice if any drone is being brought into the country.

In a notification dated March 1, issued by the finance ministry's revenue department, the Central Board of Excise and Customs amended the customs baggage declaration regulations. "Drones have been added as a commodity to be declared and strict action will follow if a passenger tries to smuggle these in," said an official.

Customs officials say the need for all flyers to fill the customs form upon their arrival has been done away with and those who are carrying dutiable or prohibited goods only require to fill it in, as per the new rules.

India – Rs 100,000,000 cocaine seized at Delhi airport

Customs officials seized over two kilograms of cocaine worth Rs 100,000,000 from a woman who came from Dubai on March 25. It was one of the highest seizures of the contraband in the city this year, said officials.

The customs officials said they received a tip-off about the woman, a Zimbabwe national. The officers detained her and found a cavity built in her shoulder bag, which contained cocaine. (*Hindustan Times*)

India – Businessman held with fake visa at airport

The Airport police arrested a 50-year-old businessman from Ulhasnagar on March 27 for attempting to fly to Dubai on a fake visa. The cops have booked an Ulhasnagar-based travel agent for issuing the visa to him.



The suspect, Rajesh Nanuram Sarangi, went to Lohegaon airport around 7.30 pm and showed his documents to the immigration staff. "The immigration officers realized he had a fake visa. Intelligence Bureau and immigration officers checked the list of persons to whom visas were issued. Sarangi's name did not feature in the list," said senior inspector Sanjay Kurundkar. Immigration officer Maheshwar Rai lodged a complaint against Sarangi.

Kurundkar said that Sarangi travels to Dubai frequently, at times six or seven times in a



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month. "He told us that he had taken the visa from a travel agency in Ulhasnagar. We have booked the travel agent as well. Our investigation is on," said Kurundkar. Sarangi may have forged the visa issued to him earlier by changing dates.

Sarangi usually carries ladies garments to Dubai and returns with electronic goods, which he later distributes in different cities of India, said Kurundkar. (*The Times of India*)

India – AP woman held with 2.5kg ganja

Customs official seized 2.5kg ganja which was found abandoned at the international terminal of Chennai airport on March 30.

A 38-year-old woman from Andhra Pradesh who was waiting to board a flight to Kuwait was detained in this connection after a CCTV grab showed her abandoning the package before reaching security check. Airport officials who found the package inspected it and found that it contained contraband and the checked CCTV footage.

During questioning it was found that she decided to drop the plan to smuggle it after seeing security checks. "A quick scan showed that she was waiting for boarding call among passengers. We confirmed her identity and detained her," said an official. Seizure of ganja is rare. There have been instances of carriers abandoning gold at toilets and garbage bins in the airport when they see heightened security checks. (*The Times of India*)

Indonesia – Malaysian arrested for smuggling ecstasy pills into N. Sumatra

Customs and Excise officials have arrested a Malaysian citizen, Mohd Faiz bin Rahman, 29, who was found to be in possession of 7,000 nimetazepam pills, popularly known as "Happy Five", shortly after arriving at Kualanamu International Airport in North Sumatra, on March 10.



Ahmad Fathoni, the Customs and Excise Office's head of investigation and law enforcement at the airport, said the office had handed over both the suspect and evidence to the North Sumatra Police for further investigation. "The suspect is undergoing questioning by the North Sumatra Police to reveal the possible involvement of other suspects in the case," Ahmad said.

Mohd Faiz was arrested by Customs officials who became suspicious there were drugs hidden in his luggage during X-ray. The officers later discovered 7,000 nimetazepam pills in the suitcase.

Indonesia – Indian man sentenced to 14 years for drug smuggling

The Denpasar District Court declared an Indian national guilty on March 28 for attempting to smuggle drugs into Indonesia's most-famous tourist destination, the island of Bali, and sentenced him to 14 years imprisonment.



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The court ruled that 29-year-old Sayed Muhammad Said was guilty of attempting to smuggle 1.1 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine, presiding Judge Dewa Gede Suarditha told the court. "The defendant has violated the Narcotics Law on importing drugs," Suarditha said. The verdict is lighter than the 20-year sentence sought by prosecutors.

The court also imposed an Rp 1 billion (US\$74,963) fine on Said, or an additional three months imprisonment should he fail to pay the fine.

Ngurah Rai International Airport Customs officers arrested Said, who worked as a sailor, upon his arrival at the airport on an Air Asia flight that departed from Bangkok, Thailand on Sept. 5 last year.

Officers became suspicious after observing Said's body language as he collected his luggage in the arrival terminal. As his luggage went through the airport's X-ray machine, customs officers noticed a suspicious package inside, and later found a plastic bag of crystal methamphetamine covered in black tape. (*The Jakarta Post*)

Indonesia – 2 M'sians nabbed in Jakarta for illegal wildlife trafficking

Indonesian authorities have arrested two Malaysian men for attempting to smuggle 23 exotic animals at the Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta March 29.

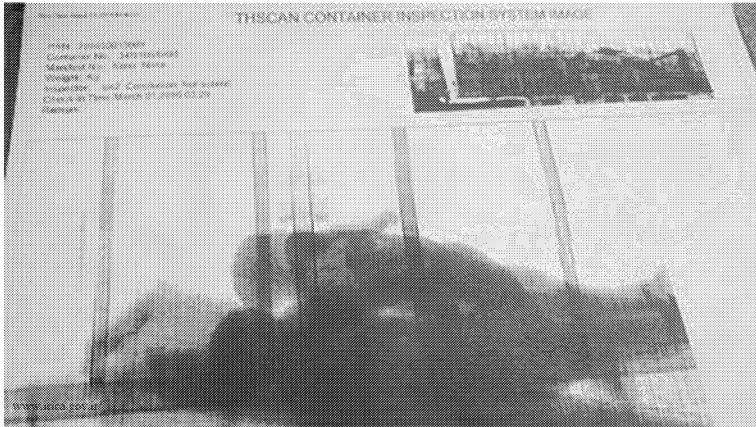
According to anti-wildlife trafficking NGO Traffic, the duo was said to be boarding a flight to Kuala Lumpur but was intercepted by quarantine officials who had spotted something fishy during X-ray scans of their luggage.

When officers opened up their luggage, they stumbled upon seven pythons, seven lizards and nine frogs. Among the seven pythons was the Green Tree Python, listed as a protected wild animal in Indonesia and also listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The duo was handed over to wildlife authorities for further investigations as they did not possess the required documentations for the confiscated animals. (*Free Malaysia Today*)

Iran – Iran customs X-ray discovers stowaways at Turkish border

Iranian customs officers have discovered four stowaways, three men and a woman attempting to cross the Iran-Turkey border illegally. The clandestine passengers, en route to Europe in a removal truck, according to authorities, were found thanks to X-ray photography.



"The migrants, who are citizens from a neighbouring country, were hidden in a removal container among furniture," Iran's customs authorities said in a statement. "We discovered their hiding spot thanks to our X-ray cameras." The vehicle was checked in the Bazargan border region, according to the statement.

The precise country of the passengers is not yet known. However, for Afghans hoping to reach Europe, Iran is the first barrier to get across. Also, Iranians illegally leaving their country for Europe must cross its western border to Turkey or Iraqi Kurdistan.

Ireland – Customs 'see and hear it all' from smugglers

Hiding cash on their wives' bodies and concocting incredible, and often multiple, claims about the origins of the money are among the tactics used by people smuggling proceeds of crime out of the country. Customs officers have seen it all, but their jobs are made very difficult by the fact that more often than not the people doing the smuggling are "complete unknowns".



Of the 33 cases in 2015, where a total of €1.157m was forfeited by the State, the case of Andrei Piatlitski is one of the more unusual. The Belarus-born Irish national was stopped at Dublin Airport on December 23, 2012. He was on the way to board a flight to Lithuania with his wife, when security at Dublin Airport detected something unusual.

His wife had €55,000 in cash "concealed around her upper body". This unusual

find prompted a further search of the couple and some €69,800 was found in Mr Piatlitski's holdall. He told Customs that he saved the €124,800 from his employment "in a scrap metal company" during his 10 years working here.

The cash was seized and an investigation was conducted by Revenue's Investigations and Prosecutions Division, who presented a file to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The DPP ordered forfeiture proceedings and the cash was handed over to the State by the court on May 20, 2015.

In another case, in June 2014, €10,000 was found on Kim Louise Hall who was about to board a flight to Amsterdam. Ms Hall was travelling with her fiancé Richard Harris. He told Customs officers he was travelling alone and only had €1,200 on him. He proceeded through the boarding gate "without acknowledging Ms Hall" only to return some time later claiming the cash was partially his. The cash was handed over to the State on March 9, 2015.

In one of a number of cases involving Chinese nationals finalised last year, Chiyu Chen and Ying Chen were stopped at Dublin Airport on October 23, 2012, about to fly to Amsterdam and on to China. Officers found €32,290 concealed "in a sophisticated manner" within household and personal hygiene items in the check-in luggage.

They claimed the cash was from savings and was to fund children's education in China. Officers showed the court this did not stand up to scrutiny and that cash was being exported to avoid paying outstanding taxes, and was forfeited on December 4, 2015.

In another case, Irishman Karl Richter had arrived on a flight from Alicante, Spain, on July 22, 2014, and stayed overnight in Dublin Airport. When he attempted to get the flight back the next day, he was stopped and had

€9,900 on him. He claimed his cousin had “dropped” the cash to him at the airport to “purchase a vehicle” back in Spain. He later claimed it was a gift from another person. The court forfeited the cash.

In one case last year, involving a Chinese person, cash was rolled up in tampon cartridges and hidden inside a picture frame.

Andrew Keyes, the head of Customs Cash Investigation Unit, said Customs officers have heard and seen it all. He said: “It’s very easy to stop a member of a gang or someone with a string of convictions. These are people with no criminal convictions and no great known associations. They are often someone who has become indebted or a family member has. You can see the desperation to get the money back, it’s tragic. They are people in trouble. More often, though, they are people doing it for a few quid. Either way, we simply have to do our job.”

Ireland – Revenue seize drugs and cigarettes at Dublin Airport

A man and a woman both in their late 50s have been remanded in custody following court appearances on 24/03/2016 on drugs charges. The Spanish nationals were stopped and questioned by Revenue officers when they arrived in Dublin airport March 22 on a flight from Seville. Both had ingested pellets of cannabis resin.

On 23/03/2016 Revenue officers seized more than 38,000 contraband cigarettes in the Cargo Terminal of Dublin Airport. The Russian stamped cigarettes, branded “Winston”, were detected in a consignment which was manifested as “Accessories” and originated in Poland.

This seizure represents a potential loss to the Exchequer of approximately €19,000.

Israel – Chareidi man caught at Ben-Gurion Airport smuggling cigarettes sent to jail

A Chareidi man apprehended smuggling cigarettes by customs agents at Ben-Gurion Airport is off to prison for three months after the defendant failed to pay the fines levied on him for breaking the law.

Customs agents have begun cracking down on collecting from persons fined after apprehended smuggling prohibited items. This includes Y.Y.G. 27, who was sentenced to three-months imprisonment by the Petach Tikvah Magistrate Court.

In 2013 he entered the country via the Green Line and was stopped, found to be smuggling 45 cartons of cigarettes to avoid the NIS 10,000 tax on the load. He was ordered to pay the tax and fined an additional NIS 10,000. He has ignored all payment notices sent to him since, and has now been sent to prison.

Italy – Man linked to terror cell detained at Rome airport



A Lebanese man was detained by border police at Rome’s Fiumicino airport on March 31 after they realized he had been reported as a member of a terrorist cell.

The man, who was carrying €20,000 in cash, was about to board a flight to Dusseldorf when he was detained during a routine check.

Police are working to gather more information about the man’s identity. (*The Local*)

Jamaica – Trinidadian woman sentenced to prison for smuggling cocaine

A Trinidadian woman was on March 16 sentenced to 18 months in prison after she was caught trying to smuggle cocaine out of the country two weeks earlier.

The police report that Daniella St George was preparing to board a flight at the Norman Manley International Airport when she was stopped, searched and four pounds of cocaine found in her possession.

When she appeared in the Corporate Area Criminal Court on March 16, she pleaded guilty. She was also fined J\$600,000 and will serve additional time if the fine is not paid. (*Jamaica Observer*)

Kenya – Kenya's canine cops sniff out illegal ivory

Burrowing deep into a huge pile of jumbled luggage, Dick the dog wags his tail, pawing at a small green rucksack: inside is the hand-sized tip of an elephant's tusk.



Sniffer dogs have long been used to seek out drugs and explosives in airports, but now Kenya has deployed specialised dogs trained to find elephant ivory and rhino horn in the latest bid to stem surging wild-life crime. This time, the hidden ivory was part of a training exercise, a test that Dick -- a Belgian Shepherd, or Malinois breed -- passed with flying colours.

Conservationists say the dog teams open a vital new front in the war on smuggling, increasing the risk for criminals.

Earlier this year, in just one week, the dog team sniffed out four separate bags -- travellers from China, Thailand and Vietnam -- carrying ivory home. "It

speaks volumes if you can arrest people like that consecutively," said Mark Kinyua, who heads the dog unit for the government's Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). "It is a huge deterrent."

The dogs' sensitive noses can smell out the tiniest pieces of carved ivory, which otherwise might have passed through the busy airport unnoticed.

"Arrests have been for worked ivory, in the form of bangles and pendants and even finger rings," Kinyua said, adding that recent cases include pendants wrapped in aluminium foil, in the hope of hiding its scent from the dogs and its shape from X-rays. "Others were hidden in a cigarette pack, another in a suitcase," Kinyua said. "That is where the dogs come in, and they make the arrests for us."

In a trade dominated by organised crime with very deep pockets, dogs like Dick have skills unmatched by humans. While dogs have been used to sniff out wildlife smugglers before, these dogs were specifically trained to hunt down ivory and rhino horn. "You cannot corrupt a dog, once a dog makes a find, you cannot tell him that it is not ivory," Muruthi said, noting that even if rhino horn was ground into powder, it would make no difference. "What the dog is detecting is the scent."

Each dog is far from cheap to train and keep, as much as \$6,000 per animal, all-in. But conservationists point to the far larger costs of poaching. The dogs have already paid for themselves several times over, as a single bust can result in fines of \$10,000 as well as imprisonment. "He is not just a dog, but part of a larger plan to protect wildlife," Muruthi said. "We cannot have sustainable development in Kenya if we do not value conservation."

Six dogs operate in the airport, working in shifts to ensure bags are checked 24 hours a day. As well as ivory and rhino horn, they have also found impala skins, pangolins, and a tortoise. "The dog is able to discriminate between ivory and ordinary cow bone because it has a very high sense smell," said Muruthi. "If you want to think of a dog as technology we are applying here an advanced technology to detect contraband movement of wildlife products."

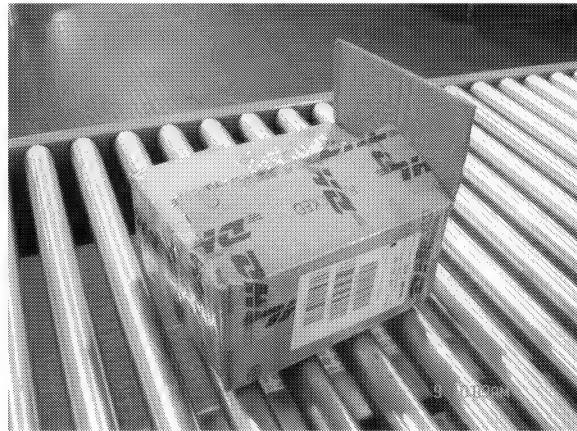
For the dogs, such as Asha, a spaniel, running along carousels in the opposite direction to the baggage, leaping over suitcases as if they were an obstacle course, the work looks like a game. "Show me, show me where," the handler calls in encouragement, as the dog turns to check, while KWS teams read luggage destination labels, marking out bags heading for suspect cities where smuggling is common.

Flights coming from Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique, and those heading for the Chinese city of Guangzhou, are given special attention. "Because this is a travel hub, we expect to not only catch ivory that is coming from elephants killed in Kenya," Muruthi said. (*Dunya News*)

Kenya – KRA officers at JKIA intercept Kisumu bound heroin from China

A team of Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) officers at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) have seized a package heroin earlier sent from China to a Kisumu address via an international courier company.

The officers, attached to the KRA Customs and Border Control division, intercepted the package at the DHL Warehouses and managed to seize the one kilogram parcel containing a substance suspected to be heroin. KRA Commissioner Julius Musyoki said the package containing the narcotic substance had been concealed in a parcel declared as massage pens.



Unlike in previous instances where such seizures have largely been on outbound (export) parcels, the interception March 8 was on a package consigned for delivery to Kisumu. Following the seizure, the authority cautioned international courier companies to exercise internal surveillance measures to avoid being used as conduits by unscrupulous drug traffickers.

This comes a week after the officers foiled an attempt by drug traffickers to export a postal mail package loaded, with bhang through the airport. The officers seized the six kilograms parcel destined for the United Kingdom, from Senegal. The carefully concealed package, marked as dried fish, had been delivered for onward delivery to the UK via Benin through the Post Office mail service, from a Senegalese address.

Musyoki said preliminary tests have identified the narcotic substance as Cannabis Sativa (Bhang) and added that further tests are now underway at the Authority's laboratory seeking to positively identify the package contents.

Korea – Bill passed to tighten airport borders

South Korea's parliament has passed a revised bill to prescreen air passengers as part of efforts to block terrorist suspects from entering the country. The National Assembly passed the revision to the immigration control law on March 2. It requires airlines to receive permission from the nation's immigration office before issuing plane tickets.



The immigration office will receive a list of passengers from airliners to check in advance whether any passports have been reported lost or are fake. It will then notify the airliners in real time whether they can issue boarding passes for the passengers.

The ministry said that through the provisional operation of prescreening, it banned more than 350 people, including sex and drug offenders, from boarding flights bound for South Korea by checking more than a million passengers' identities in advance.

The revision also requires foreign nationals aged 17 and over, who wish to enter Korea and reside here, to register their facial information and fingerprints with the immigration office.

The bill will also enforce punishment for foreigners who submit false documents or illegally lend their foreigner registration identification cards to others. Lawbreakers can face penalties of up to 20 million won (\$16,454), a jail term of up to three years and deportations.

The validity period of travel documents for recognized refugees will also be extended to three years to make it easier for them to come in and out of the country. (*The Korea Herald*)



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Kuwait – Customs officers seize 1-kg marijuana from a Nepali

Customs officers at Kuwait International Airport arrested a Nepalese man for the possession of one kilo of marijuana which he tried to smuggle from his country into Kuwait.

The officers got suspicious as the Nepalese looked agitated when he approached the luggage inspection counter. They checked his luggage thoroughly, leading to the discovery of the contraband.

The suspect was referred to the concerned security department for prosecution. (*Arab Times*)

Kuwait – Four get death for drug trafficking in Kuwait

The Criminal Court has sentenced four people to death – three Indian men, Manjottuchalil Faisal, 33, Mustafa Shahul Hameed, 41, and Aboobacker Sidheeque, 21, and a Sri Lankan woman – for drug trafficking. The three were caught in a case related to heroin smuggling. The court found the four, including three men from Kerala guilty of possessing and selling the narcotic in the country.

A case against them was registered in April 2015 following the bust at Kuwait International Airport. All four sentenced may appeal the verdicts within 30 days and the Appeal Court will review the sentences. Customs caught one of the smugglers at the airport bringing in the heroin. The other defendants were arrested in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. (*Kuwait Times*)



Kuwait – Customs seizes 9 packets of marijuana from Kuwaiti woman

A Kuwaiti woman was arrested at Kuwait International Airport for attempting to smuggle nine sachets of marijuana into the country.

According to sources, Customs officers at the airport suspected the Kuwaiti woman who had arrived from a European country and checked her luggage to find two sachets of marijuana in her handbag and seven more in her suitcase. She was arrested and referred with the confiscated marijuana to the Directorate General for Drugs Control for necessary legal action against her. (*Arab Times*)

Libya – Authorities in Libya foil attempt to smuggle gold and foreign currency

Libyan authorities in Tripoli-based Mitiga airport foiled on March 6 an attempt to smuggle 300 kg of gold and millions of foreign currency to Dubai via a flight to Istanbul.

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A security source in Mitiga airport reported that five sophisticated smugglers were apprehended after they had passed their suitcases through onboard the plane with 300 kg of gold bars and 1,700,000 euros as well as half a million dollars.

The source added that the gold-bearing airplane was ordered to land back in Mitiga airport minutes after it had taken off upon a report by the plane crew saying there are gold bags onboard, which shows that some of the security personnel in the airport are involved in the smuggling attempt. (*The Libya Observer*)

Lithuania – Worried over refugees, Baltics begin to erect border fences

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are tightening ID controls and erecting fences on their eastern borders, worried the Baltic region will become a new entry point for refugees as migrant routes through the Balkans becomes harder.

Governments fear they could see thousands of refugees cross from former ruler Russia - the focus of long historical mistrust - and Belarus. Concerns have grown since around 6,000 asylum seekers crossed into Finland and Norway from Russia last year.



Latvia and Estonia have begun to fence off their border with Russia. Security concerns also played a part after Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean region and accusations an Estonian security officer was kidnapped on the border region in 2014.

Hundreds of Lithuanian border guards, police and soldiers started an exercise over handling a border crisis. The reintroduction of ID checks on part of the border with its northern neighbor Latvia will also be tested at the exercise.

"Until last year, neither Norway nor Finland

had any migration problems on the Russian border," commander of the Lithuanian state border guard Renatas Pozela said. "Then migrant flows on that border jumped up in a single week, as if by the wave of a magic wand."

As controls tighten over the direct route from Greece into continental Europe, the route through Moldova, Ukraine and into the Baltic may become more popular, officials say.

Estonia is installing surveillance devices, such as those already on the Lithuanian border with Belarus, to thwart both smuggling and illegal migration. (*The Fiscal Times*)

Luxembourg – Fake passport spotted at Luxembourg airport



A man has been arrested for trying to leave Luxembourg's airport with a fake passport.

Luxembourg police report the man was stopped at 10am at Findel airport on March 11. Police officers found the photo on the passport was not consistent with the data on the chip.

When questioned, the man admitted to having purchased the passport from abroad at great expense. He has since been detained. (*Luxemburger Wort*)

Malaysia – Immigration Dept foils KLIA passport forgery ring

The Immigration Department foiled a passport forgery syndicate, which was operated locally by foreigners, following arrests of four men at the KL International Airport (KLIA) on March 6.



The arrests were made following checks conducted on travellers' documents randomly at the airport and also based on investigations and intelligence gathered by the department's enforcement division. During the checks, officers singled out two Sri Lankan men, who then had their documents scrutinised.

Immigration Department's director-general Datuk Sakib Kusmi said the two men, who were supposed to board a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines flight to Amsterdam, had produced Malaysian

passports when they were questioned by officers. "Suspecting the passports were fake, officials then checked through the belongings of the men and discovered their Sri Lankan passports," he said.

Investigations revealed the men had overstayed and were also in possession of travel documents not belonging to them. Sakib said interrogations on the suspects led officers to a lot on the fifth floor of KLIA, where two more Sri Lankan men were picked up.

"We believe they were working as agents for the syndicate which targeted foreigners in the country. The agents, who were in the country without proper documents, were believed to be working with foreign criminal counterparts from an office within KLIA," he said. "We believe these four arrests would lead us to the syndicate's ringleader, while we work towards putting a stop to cross-border criminal activities," he said. (*Malay Mail*)

Malaysia – It is mostly Bangladeshis having fake travel papers

Bangladeshis top the list of foreign nationals found to be using fake passports and travel documents.

KL International Airport Immigration director Datuk Mohd Zulfikar Ahmad said those seeking to work as labourers from source countries were using new tactics to enter Malaysia since the Government announced an intake freeze. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had announced on March 12 that Malaysia would close its doors to new foreign workers.

On March 9, six Bangladeshi nationals arrived at the KLIA using fake travel visas. Less than 24 hours later, three Indian nationals, all women, were detained with fake visas at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport2 (KLIA2).

Mohd Zulfikar said investigations confirmed that all the Bangladeshis intended to work here illegally while the Indian women wanted to be hired as domestic maids. "They were using real passports but false visas which are easier to fake," he said. All nine have been detained for using falsified travel documents.

Mohd Zulfikar said security at KLIA and KLIA2 had been stepped up through the use of face detection cameras and biometric system. (*The Star*)

Maldives – Customs seizes 909 grams of cannabis

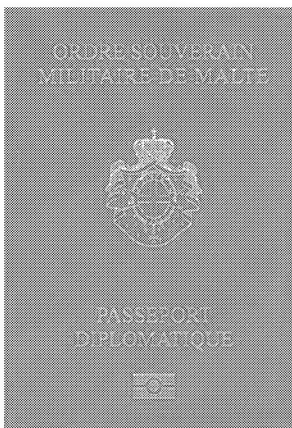


Customs has seized 909 grams of narcotics from a Bangladeshi male aged 22 who arrived from Dhaka, Bangladesh (via Colombo) on 13 March 2016 via Srilankan Airlines.

On X-ray scanning, Customs officers noticed suspicious materials concealed in his luggage. On physical inspection, they found a dark-green bag wrapped with brown-tape in which a brown colored weed like substance was found. The subsequent tests of the alleged substance confirmed that the contents of the polythene packets were prohibited psychotropic substance- cannabis. The total weight of the packet including the packing was 909 grams.

Malta – What is the world's rarest passport? Rare document issued by order of crusading medieval knights

With only three issued at any one time, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta is thought to have the most obscure passport in the world. The Catholic order's passports are only issued to its three highest officers - the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Chancellor. All other officers of the order use the passports issued by their home countries.



Given its full title, the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta originated as the Crusader Knights Hospitaller in 1099. Since losing the island of Malta in 1800, this military order's sovereign land is restricted to two extra-territorial properties in Rome, from where it issues its own postage stamps, currency and passports.

Currently this Catholic order operates as a charitable organisation offering medical aid across the world. It is made up of over 13,500 knights, dames and chaplains along with 80,000 permanent volunteers and 25,000 employees.

The order has diplomatic relations with 106 different countries including Spain, Russia and United States. Countries that do not accept the order's passports include the United Kingdom, the United States and New Zealand. The current Grand Master is Fra' Sir Matthew Festing, the second Englishman to occupy the role since 1259. (*Irish Independent*)

Malta – Man charged with importing 2 kilos of cannabis



A 38-year-old man from Ghana was charged on March 14 with importing two kilogrammes of cannabis. Joseph Papa Smith landed in Malta March 13 after flying in from Catania. He was arrested after a routine search yielded two kilogrammes of cannabis in his luggage.

Prosecuting officer Malcolm Bondin told Magistrate Audrey Demicoli that the accused possessed a Ghanaian passport and an Italian identity card. He was charged with importing the drug and with aggravated possession. He pleaded not guilty and was remanded in custody.

Mozambique – Police seize rhino horn at airport

The Mozambican police seized over 76 kilos of rhinoceros horn at Maputo International Airport. Announcing the seizure at a press conference March 14, the spokesperson for the Maputo City Police Command, Orlando Mudumane, said the horns were discovered in two suitcases, as they were being put on a flight to Kenya.



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"The Mozambican police, in coordination with customs, seized two suitcases containing 76.6 kilos of rhinoceros horn and six kilos of lion claws and teeth", said Mudumane. The owner of the suitcases and their illicit contents has not yet been identified.

It is more than likely that the rhinos from which these horns were taken were poached in the Kruger National Park in South Africa.

The final destination of the horns is most unlikely to have been Kenya. The main market

for rhino horn is the far east, particularly Vietnam, where the powdered horn is believed to have near miraculous healing powers, curing everything from hangovers to cancer. Such claims are entirely bogus since rhino horn consists mostly of keratin, the same protein found in human hair and fingernails.

Mozambique – Vietnamese citizen arrested at Maputo airport with rhino horns

Mozambican police on March 13 arrested a Vietnamese citizen, Ho Chien, at Maputo International airport in possession of six rhinoceros horns, weighing about 17 kilos.

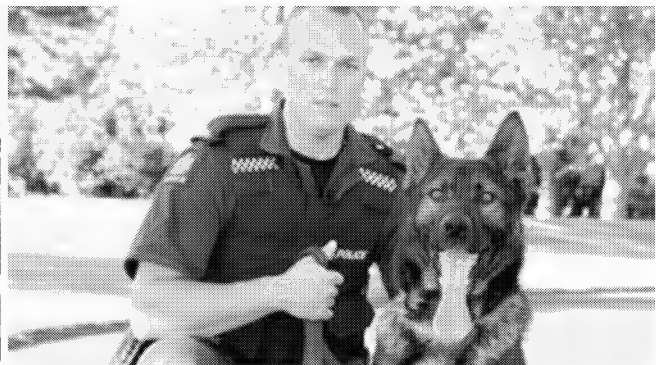
Ho Chien was arrested as he was about to embark on an international flight. His detention was the result of joint work by the police, the customs service, and the veterinary department of the Ministry of Agriculture. Ho had packed the rhino horns in a suitcase also containing clothing. Each horn had been wrapped in tinfoil, and surrounded with garlic in an attempt to disguise the smell of rotting flesh. (RAGE)

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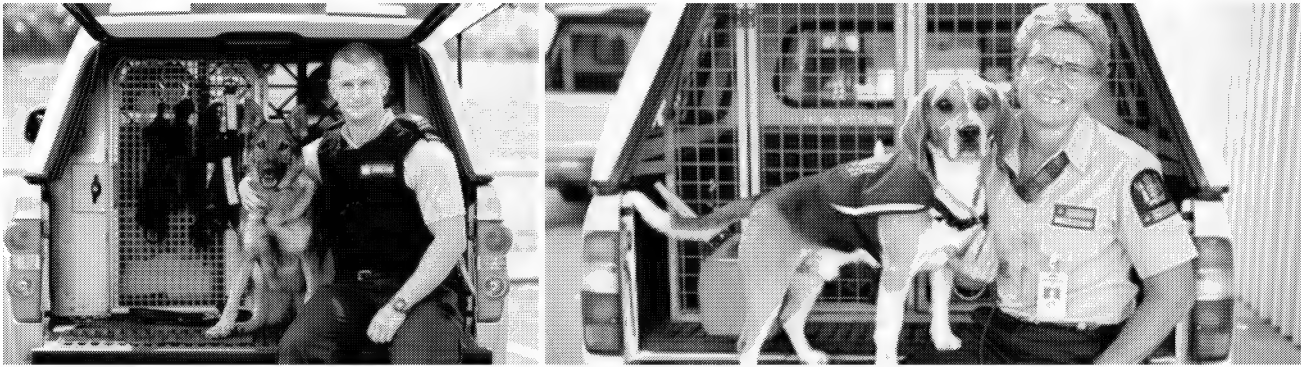
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New Zealand – *Dog Squad* returns to TV One

One of New Zealand's favourite TV shows, *Dog Squad*, will soon be back on our TV screens for its seventh season.



This action-packed half hour show follows the roles of working dogs and their handlers from Customs, Police, Corrections Service, Ministry for Primary Industries, Aviation Security, New Zealand Detector Dog Services and the Department of Conservation, as they protect our border, streets, communities, prisons, airports, and national parks.



Dog Squad screens on TV One at 7:30pm from Wednesday, 16 March 2016.

New Zealand – Passenger arrested for \$1.5 million meth in baby carriers



A 20-year-old Latvian man has appeared in the Manukau District Court March 14, charged with importing approximately 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine or 'P' found hidden in his luggage.

He arrived at Auckland Airport on a flight from Dubai on March 12, and was arrested after Customs officers located methamphetamine inside baby carriers and boxes of neck ties.

Customs Investigations Manager Maurice O'Brien says this arrest is a good example of Customs' multi-layered and intelligence led approach to border enforcement. "In this instance, it was very good work from our airport officers in profiling the passenger and inspecting his baggage contents. Customs continues to focus on high risk passengers and goods, and every seizure is a win and success for us."

New Zealand – Woman's lemon smuggling mission turns sour

A woman has been refused entry into New Zealand after trying to smuggle in six lemons in her pants.



Border officials caught the lemon smuggler at Auckland Airport after she arrived on a flight from Hong Kong on March 21. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) said the woman had deliberately hidden the lemons in her trousers, but they were sniffed out by a biosecurity dog.

"She had failed to declare she was carrying any food on her official arrival card, but was found to have the lemons concealed at the top of her pants," the MPI's Craig Hughes said. "Her excuse was that the lemons were good for her liver and other illnesses. That may be true, but it doesn't

justify endangering New Zealand's horticulture industry by illegally bringing in fruit that could harbour pests or diseases."

The woman was refused entry to the country and was forced to return to Hong Kong on the next available flight.

Nigeria – NDLEA arrests three clearing agents, exporter

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport have arrested an exporter and three clearing agents in connection with unlawful exportation of illicit drugs out of the country. The seized drugs weighing 54.76kg include 24.7kg of methamphetamine disguised as artificial hair, 2.81kg of cocaine concealed in foodstuff and 27.25kg of diazepam.



NDLEA Airport commander, Ahmed Garba said that the command is working to improve productivity. "Preliminary investigation has shown that two of the clearing agents, Akpan Jacob and Nwaeyizia Chibuzor Sylvester conspired to export 24.7kg of methamphetamine. Another agent, Ndafia Mike had 50 packs each of diazepam tablets and injections while an exporter, Orji Sunday Otuu, was found in possession of 2.81kg of cocaine," Garba stated.

Akpan who is married with five children said that he agreed to take the job because of financial difficulties. "I work as a clearing agent. I was given this job by another clearing agent, Sylvester. Ordinarily, I would not have accepted the job but I had no choice because of my family problems," he stated.

On his part, Sylvester told officials that Akpan was the one that mounted pressure on him to do the job. In his words, "I was never interested in this job but the pressure from Akpan was too much so I gave him the job. I also gave him one hundred thousand naira (₦100,000) before my arrest".

Odozia Mike in his statement said that he was called to pick up the bag and send it to Conakry, Guinea. "A customer called me to collect a bag at the motor park. I collected it and went to the airport but during examination, some injections and tablets of diazepam were found inside the bag. This was how I was arrested. I have no idea that there are injections there," Odozia stated.

Orji Sunday Otuu who exports foodstuff to India was found to have hidden 2.81kg of cocaine inside foodstuff. "I used to export African foodstuff and spices to India. This time around, I was tempted to hide cocaine inside the foodstuff. I had wanted to make about ten million naira profit but things did not go according to my plan," Orji lamented. The suspects will soon be charged to court. (*The Nation*)

Nigeria – Court orders South African lady to forfeit \$374,355

Justice C.M.A Olatoregun of the Federal High Court, Lagos on March 4, 2016, convicted Ngqula Nosisi Pam, a South African, for money laundering and bulk cash smuggling.



The convict was arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission on February 1, after her arrest at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport. The convict had earlier pleaded 'not guilty' but changed her plea to 'guilty' and was consequently convicted by the court.

Justice Olatoregun ordered that the convict forfeit the entire sum of US\$374,355 to the Federal Government of Nigeria. The judge also ordered the EFCC to remit the money to the Federal Government Account within 29 days. The Judge admonished the convict to shun illegality in the future.

Nigeria – Customs, police nab three cross-border armed robbers, recover weapons

Three members of a cross-border robbery syndicate have been arrested by officials of the Nigerian Customs Service, the Nigeria Police Force, and their counterparts in the neighbouring Benin Republic.

The bandits who are alleged to be notorious robbers and known for their escape through waterways after operations, were said to have battled both countries' (Nigeria and Benin Republic) security forces before their arrest on March 16. Other members reportedly escaped with bullet wounds while three were apprehended.



The Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Fatai Owoseni, disclosed that it had been a week of intensive intelligence work, which eventually paid off on March 16 with a bloody encounter that forced the gang to flee.

Owoseni said, "It was the collaboration between the two countries and agencies that made the arrest of three suspects possible. In their attempt to abscond, they abandoned their armoured boat, dynamite and close to 3,000 units of ammunition."

The CP, however, urged Lagosians and Benin Republic nationals living along the water areas to report to the police if they see floating bodies on the water. (*Daily Post*)

Norway – Norway extends tighter border checks

Norway on March 15 announced a month-long extension to its tighter border checks for arrivals from Denmark, Germany and Sweden.

"The controls have had a good preventive effect and there are no reports that the controls have caused problems for travellers," said Anders Anundsen, minister of justice and public security. Norway is not a member of the European Union but is part of the passport-free Schengen zone.

The border controls, which were first introduced in November, are to be extended until April 13, the ministry said.

Norway – Norway tightens rules for refugee protection

Norway's Ministry of Justice and Public Security said on March 31 it has sent instructions to the immigration authorities that refugee status and a residence permit shall be revoked if the refugee no longer needs protection.

"The instructions are important tightening in asylum practice. Those who no longer have the need for protection must return to their homeland and help to build it again when it is safe," Norway's Minister of Immigration and Integration Sylvi Listhaug was quoted as saying in a statement.

The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) will consider a revocation if security, political or human rights situations in a refugee's home country change and indicate that it is safe to return. Furthermore, the UDI will issue a revocation in cases where other factors indicate that the refugee no longer needs protection.

The instructions do not apply to quota refugees or refugees who have already had a permanent residence permit or residence on humanitarian grounds.

Pakistan – Faisalabad Customs foils attempt to smuggle turtles to Malaysia

The Customs Preventive has foiled a bid to smuggle turtles at Faisalabad International Airport. The officials deployed at the airport recovered 45 turtles, which were being smuggled to Malaysia.

Customs Preventive, during the checking process intercepted a passenger, who was identified as Muhammad Iqbal. The Customs Preventive team examined the luggage of Mohammad Iqbal and recovered 45 turtles. The Customs team asked the passenger to produce legal documents from Wildlife Department and the Customs Department to export these turtles, but the passenger failed to produce any relevant documents in this regard.

Customs seized the turtles and handed him over to the FIA for further interrogations.

Pakistan – Man held trying to fly with over 200,000 dirhams

Customs officials at the Karachi airport on March 13 arrested a Pakistani citizen who was attempting to travel to Dubai with foreign currency worth over Rs64 million (\$80,890).

An official said the Pakistani passenger, identified as Rasool Buksh, was a frequent traveller and was scheduled to board an Emirates flight to Dubai. A search of his luggage led to the recovery of 225,700 Dirhams that were stashed away in a concealed pocket. The passenger was taken into custody and investigations were underway.

Pakistan – Customs officials foil smuggling bids

Officials of Pakistan Customs posted at Jinnah International Airport foiled a smuggling bid by recovering mobile phones worth millions of rupees on March 14. The Customs spokesperson said that four unclaimed bags were seized and around 950 mobile phones were found in the unclaimed bags. The spokesperson said that the bags were on flight number EK-618 from Dubai. A case has been registered and officials are looking for the smugglers.

Earlier, Customs officials arrested a Pakistani citizen and recovered foreign currency from his possession at the airport. Customs officials said that the accused, Rasool Buksh, was arrested for attempting to travel to Dubai with 225,700 dirhams (\$82,175) in a concealed pocket. The spokesperson said that the accused was scheduled to board an Emirates flight to Dubai when he was arrested on a tip-off. (*The Express Tribune*)

Pakistan – Customs seize heroin, amphetamine from couple

Customs officials have foiled a smuggling bid by arresting a couple from Jinnah International Airport in Karachi on March 25.



“The couple was arrested while they were travelling from Karachi to Jeddah by Shaheen Airline to perform Umrah,” said Customs additional collector Syed Asad Raza Rizvi. Rizvi added that the accused, Gul Sher Buksh and his wife, Reshma, were initially asked if they were carrying any contraband, including narcotics or foreign currency in their baggage but they denied.

Sixteen small polythene packets of heroin powder, weighing 1,270 grammes, were found in their luggage when their baggage was checked. The drugs were hidden in four pairs of plastic

slippers and two packets of soap. Customs officials also seized amphetamine from their possession. It was found in two shampoo bottles, in the hollow handle rod and frame of the suitcase, two talcum powder tins and one body lotion bottle.

“The yellow heroin powder and amphetamine were instantly tested with a testing kit, which was positive,” a customs officer said. The heroin powder and amphetamine were seized along with the travelling documents of the passengers. (*The Express Tribune*)

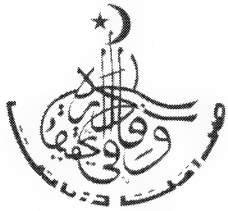
Pakistan – Smuggling bid: Customs seizes 328 mobile phones

The Customs authorities foiled a bid to smuggle mobile phones worth millions of rupees at the Jinnah International Airport Karachi on March 28.

Pakistan Customs staff posted at the international arrivals section arrested two incoming Pakistani passengers for smuggling items into the country. Customs Arrivals Deputy Collector Amjad Aman Leghari said the passengers, identified as Arshad and Shariq, had arrived from Dubai by an Emirates flight. The official claimed to have recovered 328 mobile phones worth Rs3.4 million from them, which were concealed inside an LCD TV set.

Pakistan – Two arrested with bogus travel papers

Immigration officials of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) at Allama Iqbal Airport, Lahore on March 31 off-loaded two passengers, including one foreign national on the charges of travelling on fake documents.



According to the FIA officials, a passenger named Odinwaikpa Chibuzor Samuel, a Nigerian national, was travelling to Nigeria by a flight from Lahore airport. The passenger was travelling on an emergency passport issued by the Embassy of Nigeria, Islamabad.

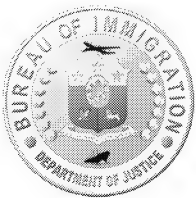
The arrival record of the passenger was confirmed from IBMS data-base. The travel history revealed that emergency passport was photo substituted as some other passenger had arrived in Pakistan with this name. When inquired by the FIA Immigration officials, Samuel

disclosed that his real name was Edmund Ikolo and he purchased this emergency passport for hundreds of dollars. He was sent to FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Cell, Lahore.

On the other hand, the other passenger named Malik Shakeel was off-loaded as he was travelling on the strength of Pakistani passport containing a work permit for South Africa. During Immigration clearance his work permit was found bogus. He disclosed to Immigration staff that he had purchased this from an agent.

Philippines – BI agent shot by German fugitive

An agent of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) was shot while he, along with 3 BI agents were about to serve a



Warrant of Deportation against Rudolf Wilhelm Stolz, a fugitive German national included in an INTERPOL Red Notice. This incident happened on March 3, at about 12:40 in the afternoon at Sitio Sugod, Brgy. Manocmanoc, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan.

The suspect resisted arrest and shot a BI agent, hitting him on his upper right chest. The BI agent, critically wounded, was rushed to an undisclosed hospital. His condition has been described as stable by attending doctors.

Philippines – BOC nabs 2M worth of drugs in NAIA

Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency caught several attempts of drug smugglers to sneak in and out the country an estimated total value of Php 2,000,000 of illegal drugs at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).



Instead of amino supplements, it yielded 960 pieces of ecstasy. This inbound parcel originated from Germany and consigned to a Cavite-based recipient.

Likewise, a bicycle and leather shoes were also used by culprits to conceal the illicit trade of drugs. Filled in the bicycle was 53 grams of shabu from Quezon City, bound for Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, buried in leather shoes was 16 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride locally known as "shabu" bound for Europe.

Puerto Rico – CBP arrests 2 previously deported Brazilian men traveling to New York

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers arrested 2 previously removed Brazilian men attempting to board a flight to New York City. Jose Aleandro De Araujo-Silva, 29, and Jose Mario Goncalves, 60, citizens of Brazil, will appear before Magistrate Judge Bruce McGiverin to face charges for re-entering after a previous removal.

Mr. De Araujo-Silva and Mr. Goncalves were found on March 2 at the Luis Muñoz Marin International Airport in Carolina, Puerto Rico, attempting to board a domestic flight bound to John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. Both presented a passport from Brazil as proof of identity, with no visa or entry stamp.

In secondary, a biometric database revealed that Mr. De Araujo-Silva had been apprehended by Border Patrol near Brownsville, Texas and removed in 2010. In 2015, he was once again apprehended near Sarita, Texas.

In October 2015, Mr. De Araujo-Silva was convicted for illegal reentry in the United States District Court Southern District of Texas, and subsequently removed. Mr. Goncalves was apprehended in 2003 near Abram, Texas and admitted returning on February 2016 illegally along with other migrants in western Puerto Rico.

Qatar – Bangladeshi jailed for smuggling bid

A Doha criminal court has sentenced a Bangladeshi man to seven years in jail and imposed a fine of QR200,000 for an illicit drug smuggling attempt. The court also ordered his deportation upon completing his sentence.



الهيئة العامة للجمارك
General Authority of Customs

When the defendant arrived at Hamad International Airport, customs officers doubted his conduct and ordered a full search of his luggage. A kilo of marijuana was found in a bag.

However, the defendant claimed that the bag was given to him at his home country at the airport to be delivered to a person in Doha. He also told the investigators that because he trusted the person whom he gave the bag, he did not open it and took him for his word as containing clothes for the targeted person, who could not be traced by the investigators. (*Gulf Times*)

Romania – Afghan family caught trying to illegally enter Romania



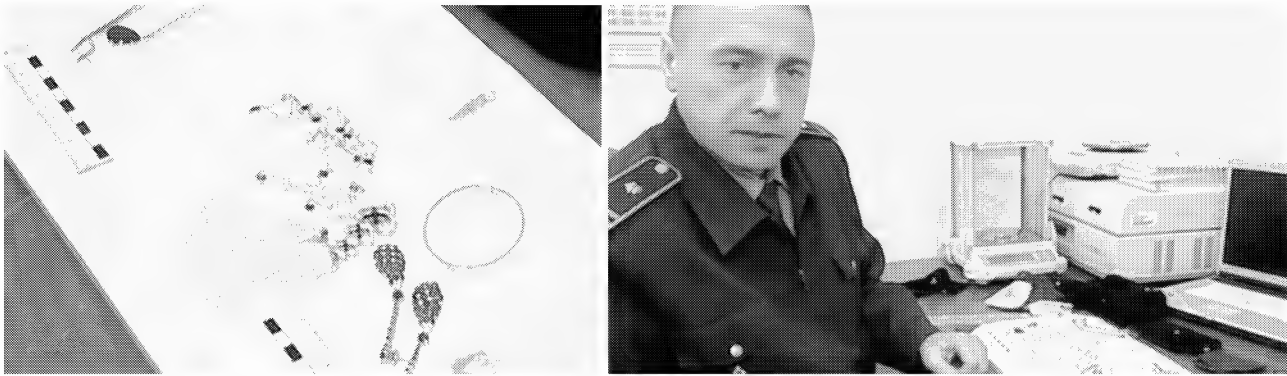
Seven Afghan citizens tried to enter Romania illegally on March 8, but were caught by the Romanian Border Police.

According to the Border Police, the group of illegal immigrants was actually an Afghan family made of husband, wife, four minors aged between 2 and 15, and the husband's brother. They were trying to illegally cross the border between the Republic of Moldova and Romania on their way to the Schengen area.

The incident took place at around 06:30 on March 8. Under the agreement concluded between Romania and Moldova, the Afghan citizens were handed over to the border authorities of the neighboring state.

Russia – Woman seized with £70k of stolen jewellery down her bra

A woman who tried smuggling 70,000 GBP worth of jewellery into Russia was detained after officials found them hidden inside her bra. The American suspect, who has not been named, was stopped at Sheremetyevo Airport in the capital city of Moscow where she had arrived from New York.



Included among the items, stunned officials discovered down her top were bracelets, rings and earrings made from precious stones worth an estimated 7 million Russian RUB (around 70,000 GBP).



The woman told security officials that she had inherited the gems from her late grandmother. But, according to the border control police, the jewellery was similar to that normally issued by international designers in their limited edition collections.

They suspect that it was being smuggled in to be sold at a far higher price.

Police spokesman Igor Vorobyev said the jewellery was now being investigated to find out where it came from and that the woman had for now been ordered to stay in Russia. (*Daily Star*)

Russia – 48 Pakistanis deported, 84 arrested at Moscow airport

Russia has deported 48 Pakistanis who were part of a group that was held at the Moscow airport for hours after landing there for a business trip.

At least 84 other Pakistanis who are being held at Moscow airport are likely to be deported, Foreign Office spokesperson Nafees Zakaria said. The spokesman said the Russian government has informed the Pakistan embassy in Moscow that the 48 Pakistanis are being deported but did not give any reasons for keeping them in custody.



A video and pictures circulating on social media showed a group of Pakistanis waiting in a crowded room at the airport while in custody. The Pakistanis, who are actually part of a group of traders, had travelled to Russia for an exhibition when they were detained at the Moscow airport, along with a few people coming from other countries.

The man recording the group's video said the Pakistanis were being held in custody at the airport for the past eight hours. "We have not been given any reason [for the detainment]," another man was heard saying in the video.

Another report said that the Russian security agencies have stopped around 188 Pakistanis at the Moscow airport and kept them in a room for over 18 hours. According to details, over 188 Pakistani businessmen arrived in Russia to attend an annual convention were stopped by immigration officials at the airport. (*The Gulf Today*)

Saudi Arabia – 2 men, wives caught with heroin in stomach

Saudi airport customs inspectors arrested two men and their wives caught hiding nearly 1.5 kg of heroin in their stomachs.



Customs officials in the Western Red sea port of Jeddah decided to subject the couples to scanning machine after suspecting they were hiding illegal items. The images showed the two men had around 800 g of heroin in their stomach while their wives had nearly 700 g inside their bellies.

Airport customs director Abdullah Al Falai said the inspectors arrested another man hiding about 875 g of heroin in his belly.

Saudi Arabia – Customs officers foil bid smuggle 40,500 Tramadol pills

Customs officers foiled an attempt to smuggle 40,500 pills of Tramadol at Prince Mohammed bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Medina.

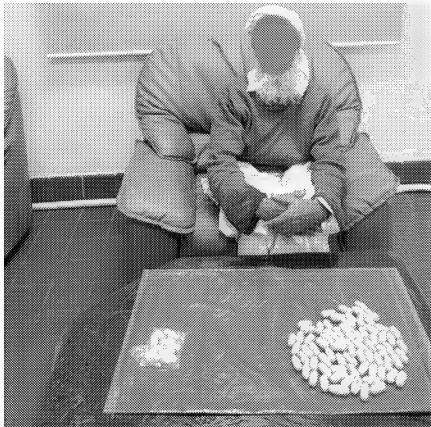


The officers searched a suitcase of a passenger at the airport and seized the prohibited drugs concealed in female clothes. They also confiscated six other items used in witchcraft.



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Saudi Arabia – Customs at King Abdulaziz International Airport thwart attempt to smuggle heroin

Customs at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah have foiled an attempt to smuggle an amount of heroin weighing 631 grams hidden inside a passenger's bowels and handbag.

The Airport's Director General of Customs Abdullah Al-Falai said that while a customs observer was carrying usual inspection procedures, he found the heroin with an arriving passenger, adding that he took the necessary measures against him. (*Alriyadh*)

Serbia – Customs officers found 33 migrants hidden in a cargo train



Serbian customs officers at the border with Macedonia have found 33 migrants hidden in a cargo train in an attempt to cross into the country illegally.

The customs office said that the group was discovered on March 12 in three wagons at the end of an empty train that had arrived from Macedonia.

The statement says the migrants included one woman. It says the migrants were aged 18 to 26 and had no documents but said they were from Afghanistan, Libya and Syria. They have been handed over to police.

Sierra Leone – Pakistani deported for using fake visa

Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, a Pakistani who used forged travelling document to enter Sierra Leone, was deported on March 7 back to his country by Magistrate Dr. Abubakarr Binneh-Kamara, at the Freetown Magistrates' Court. The order from the magistrate came after the Pakistani pleaded guilty to entering Sierra Leone without a valid travel document, contrary to the *Non-Citizens Registration, Immigration and Expulsion Act* of 1956.

Defense counsel Ishmael Philip Mammie had apologised on behalf of his client, who he said admitted his guilt with remorse.

Bhatti was arraigned at the Freetown Magistrates' Court No.1 on two counts of entering Sierra Leone without a valid traveling document and using a forged visa. According to the particulars of offence, the accused entered the country without a valid travelling document on 28 January, 2016 via the Freetown International Airport at Lungi. He has been put in detention awaiting deportation.

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South Africa – 70-year-old arrested for 46kg of drugs

A 70-year-old man was arrested at OR Tambo International Airport after being found in the possession of R92,000 worth of drugs. The man, travelling on a British-issued passport, was arrested on March 9 for the possession of Khat.

The man was due to catch a flight to Zurich in Switzerland when he was intercepted. According to police, he had more than 46 kilogrammes of Khat.

South Africa – SARS Customs seize R21 million worth of narcotics

SARS Customs officials have seized an estimated R21 million street worth of narcotics with the assistance of up-graded state of the art scanning equipment, a highly trained detector dog unit, dedicated SARS Customs officers, and collaboration with the Hawks and the South African Police Service.

Narcotics busts of cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, heroin, cannabis and ephedrine were made at the OR Tambo International Airport, including 32kg of liquid Crystal Methamphetamine just intercepted around 1pm March 10. The package was intercepted at the Johannesburg International Mail Centre and was destined for Centurion, South Africa, from India.

Narcotic busts at OR Tambo International Airport

- Collaboration between the Hawks and SARS Customs officers landed the second biggest of the seven busts – a consignment of 18kg of ephedrine - the principle ingredient in the manufacture of crystal methamphetamine concealed in the luggage of a South African passenger on an incoming Abu Dhabi flight.
- In the second incident, the scanning of a lost bag revealed a package containing a yellow oily liquid testing positive for Crystal Methamphetamine, weighing R4.4kg. The package was en-route from Doha to East London, South Africa.
- During random inspections at a courier company, in the third incident, a SARS detector dog reacted positively to two packages en-route to Canada concealing 2.8kg of heroin.
- A shipment en-route to the United Kingdom was also intercepted when a SARS detector dog reacted positively to a concealed consignment of 13kg of compressed cannabis.
- In the last incident, a random inspection by customs officials at the Johannesburg International Mail Centre resulted in the detection of 1.9kg of cocaine concealed in shampoo and hair treatment products. The package was en-route from Brazil to Swaziland.

Illegal cigarette bust worth R3.6 Million at Groblersbridge border

Meanwhile at the Groblersbridge border, a masterful joint operation between SARS Customs, SARS tactical investigations and the South African Police Service led to the discovery of illegal cigarettes worth R 3.6 million. The stash was found in several false compartments of the tanker of a truck entering South Africa from Zambia.

South Africa – Customs busts R4-million crystal meth & detain gun

SARS Customs has detained a firearm and seized R4.26 Million worth of liquid crystal methamphetamine (crystal



meth) in two different incidents.

Customs officials found fifteen one-litre bottles of the yellowish liquid – confirmed to be crystal meth – during a random check at a warehouse at OR Tambo International Airport. The consignment was from India.

In the second incident, a firearm was found concealed in a lunch box when the traveller's luggage was put through a baggage scanner at Beit Bridge on March 15.

The gun has been detained while the narcotics were handed over to the police for further investigations.

South Africa – Woman nabbed in R10m OR Tambo crystal meth drug bust

Police at the OR Tambo International Airport arrested a 47 year old woman attempting to smuggle R10 million worth of crystal meth the country. The South African woman arrived at OR Tambo from Accra, Ghana on a South African Airways flight at 6:20 am.

According to SAPS, Customs agents were conducting routine checks when they noticed the suspect attempting to smuggle the illegal substance via her luggage.

The suspect will appear in the Kempton Park Magistrates' Court and will be tried on at least one charge of dealing in drugs.

South Africa – Two Immigration officers nabbed for corruption

Police have arrested two immigration officers for corruption and defeating the ends of justice.

The two, Vusani Lalamani and Dimakatso Phaladi, both 33, based at OR Tambo International Airport, were arrested on March 31 after they were found to have been in possession of a passport belonging to a wanted Nigerian suspect, who is being sought for fraud and contempt of court.

SAPS spokesperson Brigadier Vishnu Naidoo said the police's suspicion was roused when their computer system, which is linked with that of Home Affairs at the airport, reported the presence of a wanted suspect at one of the immigration desks. "Upon their arrival at the desk, they only found the immigration officer without the suspect. By then, the passport had already exchanged hands," said Naidoo.

Investigations revealed that the two immigration officers have been working together. "How they ended up in possession of the suspect's passport is still being investigated." They were both granted bail of R2000 each.

Sweden – Sweden further extends Denmark border checks

Sweden's border controls, introduced in November and extended to passenger ID checks at ferry terminals and Copenhagen Airport's train station at the turn of the year, will not be going away any time soon. Johansson announced that the measures have been extended for an additional 30 days.



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Despite seeing a sharp drop in asylum numbers since implementing the controls, Johansson said Europe's refugee crisis was far from over, pointing to indications that around a million refugees are expected to travel to the continent in 2016.

"Almost 10 times more have arrived in January compared to January last year. And we're in a situation where our asylum centres are full," said Johansson. "If we remain the most generous refugee country in the EU: what happens then?" (*The Local*)

Sweden – Stowaway seeks asylum in Sweden after surviving flight from Ethiopia

A stowaway refugee found on a plane from Ethiopia to the Swedish capital Stockholm survived the 10-hour journey via Vienna in a pressurized container in the cargo hold, police said.



The man, 27, said he was an Ethiopian national and has submitted an asylum application in Sweden, police spokesman Lars Bystrom said. Police and paramedics were alerted, but a check-up showed he did not require medical treatment.

He was discovered at Stockholm Arlanda Airport by baggage handlers unloading an Ethiopian Airlines flight that arrived on March 7, said Johan Live of Swedaviam, the company that operates the airport. Police have launched an investigation into possible human trafficking.

Taiwan – Now that's cash strapped! 'Pregnant' woman revealed to be carrying £30,000 worth of bank notes instead of baby bump

A woman pretended to be pregnant so she could smuggle 1.4 million New Taiwanese Dollars into Hong Kong from Taiwan. Ms Chen was caught on March 7 at Taoyuan International Airport in Taipei as she prepared to board a flight.

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Security staff at the airport approached Ms Chen who was pretending to be pregnant to get the money through. She was allegedly trembling when she spoke to the guards who noticed she was wearing her clothes very loosely when boarding the plane. The security personnel took her to another room to be searched, where they discovered the hidden cash.

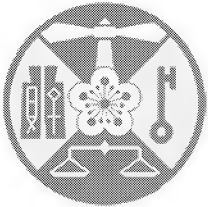
Ms Chen was concealing 500 and 100 dollar notes down her trousers and under her jumper, totalling 1.4

million New Taiwanese Dollars (£30,000). When they found the money, Ms Chen told the officers she was taking it into Hong Kong so she could go shopping.

Officers have taken her to the Taiwan Ministry of Finance and Customs Department in Taipei for further investigation. (*Daily Mail*)

Taiwan – Customs confiscates US traveler's undeclared cash

A U.S. national had a large sum of undeclared cash in U.S. dollars confiscated by Customs at the Taiwan



Taoyuan International Airport March 10, with his itinerary being delayed due to the failed declaration.

The 53-year-old man was found by security personnel to be carrying US\$35,300 in cash as he was readying to board a flight destined for Seoul, according to the Aviation Police Bureau. As he failed to declare the money to Customs authorities, the man had to hand over US\$25,300 to Customs under the *Foreign Exchange Regulation Act*. (*The China Post*)

Taiwan – Malaysian man caught with record-setting NT\$60m in cocaine at airport

A Malaysian man flying from Brazil was nabbed on March 13 at the Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport for carrying nearly six kilograms of cocaine worth about NT\$60 million (US\$1.84 million) while making a transit stop in



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Taiwan en route to Macau, the Aviation Police Bureau said.

The 19-year-old man, who stashed the cocaine in his luggage, was caught by aviation police and customs agencies at an X-ray security checkpoint when he arrived at the airport around 6 p.m. March 13 on his way to Macau. He was found to be carrying 15 packets of cocaine weighing a total of 5,968 grams hidden in his bed sheets, clothing and bags, aviation police said.

The cocaine, classified as a Category One narcotic in Taiwan, was a rare type, making it the biggest shipment of cocaine ever seized during a transit stop in the country, according to aviation police.

The man told police he was asked by his boss to carry the luggage to Macau and did not know what was inside.

Taiwan – Meat in baggage leads to fine for traveler at airport

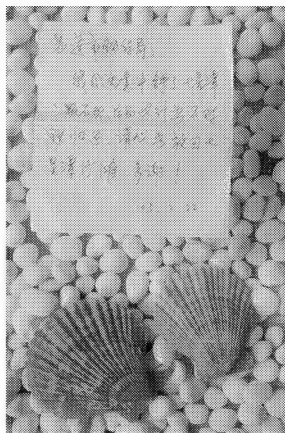
A Taiwanese man was fined on March 16 for bringing raw beef into Taiwan, Taipei Customs said.

The passenger, identified only by his surname Chang, was intercepted by Customs officials on his arrival at Taipei Songshan Airport from Japan. He was found to be carrying five kilograms of raw beef in his checked luggage, Customs said.

The meat was confiscated, inspected and later destroyed, and Chang was fined NT\$3,000 (US\$91), Customs said. (*The China Post*)

Taiwan – Chinese tourists in Taiwan steal 'lucky rocks' they found at scenic site

Customs officers at the airport of Taoyuan, Taiwan, have seized over two hundred pounds from the luggage of mainland Chinese tourists who took the contraband from sightseeing locations on the eastern coast of Taiwan.



The Sanxiantai and Bashian Caves are named for famous Daoist immortals and are closely associated with Chinese mysticism.

For many tourists, rocks found at these sites are endowed with auspicious qualities, prompting some to take them back home, despite the restrictions in place to prevent erosion.

Some of the tourists who took

rocks seem repentant, however. On Feb. 22, Jao Jui-ling, deputy chief of the Environmental Protection Bureau of Hualien County, said that she received a package containing three rocks and an apology written in simplified Chinese (the writing used in mainland China). (*Epoch Times*)

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Taiwan – Two men nabbed at Kaohsiung airport with 10 kg of illegal drugs



Two men have been arrested at Kaohsiung International Airport after they were found to be carrying more than 10 kilograms of methamphetamine to Japan March 29.

The two men, who had stashed the drugs in their luggage, were caught by aviation police and customs agencies at an X-ray security checkpoint when they were about to board an EVA Air flight from Kaohsiung to Japan's Narita International Airport. They were found to be carrying 51 packets of methamphetamine weighing a total of 10.589 kg hidden in their luggage.

When questioned by the police, the two men said that they were offered NT\$100,000 and NT\$200,000, respectively, to carry the product to Japan. (Focus Taiwan News Channel)

Tajikistan – Two dead in clash on Tajik-Afghan border: border guards

Tajik border guards killed an armed fighter who had crossed over from Afghanistan and lost an officer during a clash along the border, a statement said.



"A clash between a border patrol and a nine-strong group, which was armed to their teeth and had crossed over from Afghanistan, took place near the Panj border post," border guards said, calling the fighters a "terrorist group" and "smugglers."

The clash took place March 5. The fighters had crossed over from Afghanistan's northern Kunduz province, the Tajik border guards said, adding that they killed one fighter and wounded another one.

Tajikistan shares a 1,344-kilometre border with Afghanistan, including areas controlled by the Taliban. Last year Tajik border guards took part in 30 skirmishes with drug smugglers from Afghanistan, killing 16 fighters.

Tanzania – New EAC e-passport to be used from January 2017

East Africans will begin using new EAC electronic passports from January next year after Heads of State from the member countries launched the international travel document at a Summit held in Arusha, Tanzania, March 2. Each member nation will have up to December 2018, to phase out their national passports.



The EAC is made up of six member countries. Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and South Sudan which joined the bloc March 2.

The bloc's new electronic passport is said to be highly secure and difficult to duplicate when compared to the existing passports. Electronic passports provide travellers with benefits such as use of automated border clearance or "E-gates", automated issuance of boarding passes, and faster travel arrangements with airlines.

Apart from facilitating fast clearance of travellers at immigration checks, an e-passport's database is enhanced with Automated Fingerprint



Verification System that guards against multiple passport issuances to the same person and enhances imposter detection. (*New Times*)

Tanzania – Chinese nationals fined 100m/- over currency smuggling

Two Chinese, Su Ning (39) and Feng Guang Quan (51) have been sentenced to pay a total fine of 100m/- (\$59,900) or go to jail for five years each for exporting Tanzanian currency notes worth 35m/- to China.

Senior Magistrate Cyprian Mkeha convicted the aliens on their own plea of guilty of three counts, two relating to exporting the currency and one of attempting to export the money. The prosecution had told the court that the Chinese were involved in the transaction without permit of Governor of the Bank of Tanzania, as required under the *Foreign Exchange Act*.



Magistrate Mkeha took into consideration a number of factors, including the economic impact as a result of conduct of the accused persons. Following the court's verdict, each Chinese would be required to pay 50m/- each or serve the custodial sentence in default of paying the fine.

Since some of the money involved in commission of the offences was not exported outside Tanzania and considering that the two persons had shown repentance for what they had done, the magistrate ordered 20m/- be returned to Ning, as it was money he had legally acquired.

Senior State Attorney Shadrack Kimaro, for the prosecution, had told the court that the two Chinese committed the offences on different dates in 2015 and this year at Julius Nyerere International Airport in the city. The prosecution told the court that between August 15 and 31, last year, at the airport, the two accused persons transported to China 10,000 notes of 500 denominations each, all valued at 5m/-, without permission of the BoT Governor.

It was alleged that between December 22 and 31, last year at the same place, the two accused persons exported to China 20,000 notes of 500 denominations each valued at 10m/-, without having a permit. The court heard further that on March 15, this year, at the airport, the accused persons transported to China 40,000 notes of five denominations each worth 20m/-.

In his judgment, however, the magistrate ruled out that facts presented by the prosecution could not support the third count in relation to 40,000 notes, as there was no proof that such amount was exported. The magistrate, however, convicted the two of attempting to export the money in question, as there was proof of an overt act.

Thailand – Over 300kg of elephant tusks found at Suvarnabhumi Airport



Some 87 elephant tusks smuggled into Thailand from Kenya have been seized, Customs Department chief Kulit Sombatsiri said. The ivory, weighing 315 kilograms, was found amid cargo declared as uncut stone from Mozambique transported through Kenya to Suvarnabhumi Airport. The intended recipient was identified as a Guinean man named Sato Morie, who has already left Thailand after learning about the seizure.

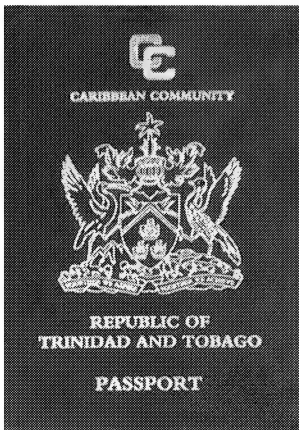
Kulit said there were 22 boxes in the batch but not all of it could be loaded on to the plane, so 10 boxes were left in Kenya. He said Customs had alerted authorities in the east African state and they had impounded another 70kg. (*The Nation*)



Trinidad and Tobago – Passport rule strands man in Trinidad

A Canadian permanent resident from Trinidad finds himself stuck in his homeland because his passport — dated to expire in 2017 — is no longer valid.

Virgil Green, who lives in Toronto, flew to Trinidad on March 14 to spend the week with his ailing father. Upon arriving in Port of Spain, he said he was told by Caribbean Airlines staff that he would not be able to fly back to Canada unless he got a new machine-readable passport.



“First the customs agent told me I couldn’t return to Canada. But as I was passing security, another lady told me that it was protocol for the first customs agent to immediately send me back on a return flight to Pearson,” said Green, a waiter.

Since his arrival, Green said he’s spent much of his vacation not only applying for a scannable passport, but also for a new birth certificate — a document required in attaining a new passport. The cost of a new machine-readable passport is \$250 in local currency, plus an additional fee to have the process expedited.

According to the immigration office, the process for an expedited passport would take five to seven business days, a longer timeline than Green had anticipated with a return flight scheduled for March 18.

Trinidad changed its passports in 2007, requiring all nationals to have a machine-readable passport. It also gave them until November 2015 to make the change.

Green got a regular 10-year passport from Trinidad in 2007, before the switch to the machine-readable passport and he did not know the travel document is now invalid, said his wife, Jordan Tustin.

A reservations clerk for Caribbean Airlines said that reservations agents and ticketing agents for the airlines, including those in Toronto, have been instructed to tell all travellers they need a machine-readable passport. The airline also has the information on its website and had an extensive social media campaign about it, the reservations clerk said.

According to Dionne Ligoure, head of corporate communications for Caribbean Airlines, Green wouldn’t have encountered a problem getting on the plane in Toronto with the passport he had. “As far as I’m advised, the passenger is a national of Trinidad and Tobago and as such we would accept (him) for travel to Trinidad and Tobago because he’s returning to his home country,” said Ligoure.

But a return trip back to Canada requires a machine-readable passport in accordance with international regulations. Global Affairs, formerly Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs, said they cannot provide assistance as this is a Trinidadian passport matter.

Tunisia – Tunisia border guard wounded in ‘terrorist’ ambush

A border guard was injured March 30 in an ambush by more than a dozen “terrorists” in the Kasserine region near Tunisia’s frontier with Algeria, the interior ministry in Tunis said.

“A group composed of around 15 terrorists ambushed a border guard vehicle and opened fire near Feriana,” the ministry said in a statement. “Heavy fire erupted, setting the vehicle alight,” the ministry said, adding that one guard had been injured and was taken to the regional hospital in Kasserine.

The ministry said the attackers “fled towards Mount Chaambi” and that army units had been called in to carry out security operations in the area. (*Al Arabiya*)

Turkey – Turkey detains Daesh members at Öncüpınar border gate, seizes bags of explosives, suicide vest

Turkish security forces detained two suspected Daesh terrorists of Syrian nationality on March 7 at the Turkish border crossing of Öncüpınar.

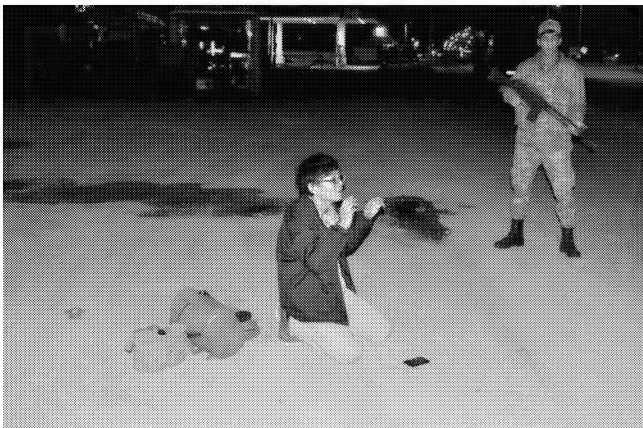


The two suspects were apprehended when authorities noticed that they were trying to place three bags inside a truck that had just entered Turkey from Syria, the Ministry for Customs and Monopolies said on March 8. The bag reportedly contained 10 slabs of plastic explosives, a suicide vest and a detonator. There was no further information on the suspects.

Following the incident, security measures at the Öncüpınar crossing have increased. (*Daily Sabah*)

Turkey – Turkey detains Japanese jihadist on way to Syria

Turkey has detained a Japanese citizen in the south of the country on suspicion of seeking to cross the border into Syria to join ISIS jihadists.



The young man, aged 24 and named as M.M., was detained late on March 22 in the Nizip district of the southern city of Gaziantep, close to the Syrian border.

He had admitted to wanting to travel to Syria after getting to know an unnamed contact by telephone and then agreeing to cross the frontier. He will be deported from Turkey back to Japan once the investigation is completed.

He was detained during a routine check by the Turkish gendarmerie while being driven towards the border settlement of Karkamis. Police had confirmed his contacts with jihadists by examining messages on his mobile phone. (*Arutz Sheva*)

United Kingdom – Drug smuggler in wheelchair caught with £25,000 worth of cannabis in cakes

A drug smuggler who posed as a disabled man then attempted to smuggle £25,000 worth of cannabis into the UK through Birmingham International Airport has been jailed for 12 months.



Lee Love was stopped by Border Force officers on June 13 last year when he arrived at the airport and attempted to pass through the green customs channel in a wheelchair being pushed by an airport porter.



Love, 25, of Audenshaw, was sentenced when he appeared at Manchester Crown Court on March 1 after pleading guilty to the offence at an earlier hearing.

Love's suitcase was found to contain six rum cake boxes which were filled with a solid substance later found to be more than 12kg of herbal cannabis.

Love, who at the time was living in Wolverhampton, was detained by Border Force. Following the seizure, the investigation was passed to the National Crime Agency.

During interview Love admitted that he had accepted the offer of a holiday to Jamaica from a man he had become acquainted with, who later dropped him off at the airport. He claimed he did not become suspicious until he was abroad and it was too late.

United Kingdom – Accrington man jailed for smuggling £500,000 worth of heroin in sweet tins from Dubai

An Accrington man has been jailed for smuggling heroin worth over half a million pounds hidden in sweet tins.

Mohammed Perwez, 59, of Accrington, was stopped by Border Force officers at Manchester airport after he stepped off a flight from Dubai with his wife on May 9, 2015. The pair were allowed to proceed through customs after the three checked-in bags they were carrying were not found to contain prohibited goods.



Three hours later, Border Force officers identified an unclaimed suitcase on a carousel which was later confirmed to belong to Mr Perwez. Officers recovered two large red tins labelled 'Jamil sweets' from the suitcase, which were found to contain 5.4kg of heroin in paste form hidden under a layer of ghee sweets.

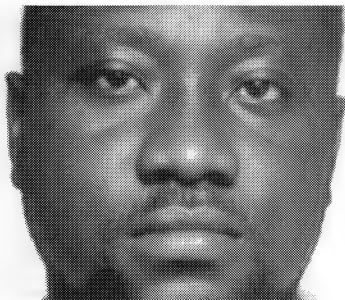
Perwez was arrested by NCA officers and by Lancashire Police at his home on May 12.



He pleaded guilty to the importation of class A drugs and was sentenced at Manchester Minshall Street Crown Court on March 4 to five years and four months in prison. (*This Is Lancashire*)

United Kingdom – Fraudster caught trying to use false French ID to enter the UK at Manchester Airport

A fraudster who tried to use a false French ID to enter the UK was caught out by immigration staff at Manchester Airport. Pascal Tanoh, 32, was stopped by Border Force officers after he arrived on a flight from Brussels on November 15 and presented a French identity card at passport control.



When officers challenged Tanoh that he was not the man in the photo, he claimed that he had borrowed the card from a friend as he needed to travel and had lost his own French passport.

After an investigation by the Immigration Enforcement's Crime Team, Tanoh was arrested and charged with possession of a false identity document with improper intent. He pleaded guilty at Manchester Crown Court in December and was remanded in custody.

Immigration officials discovered that Tanoh has a history of other immigration offences. His deception included an asylum claim he had

submitted in 2004 for himself, his wife and their two children using a false Togolese identity. When the claim was refused, he used a fraudulently obtained French passport and identity card in another criminal attempt to secure UK residency for himself and his family.

Tanoh - whose true identity has not yet been established - has now been jailed for two years and four months with a recommendation for deportation at the earliest opportunity.

He pleaded guilty to six further offences, including assisting unlawful immigration, possession of an identity document with improper intention, attempting to seek leave to remain by deception, assisting unlawful immigration, and fraud by false representation. (*Manchester Evening News*)

United Kingdom – Manchester Airport passport control chaos as UK Border Force staff struggle to cope with 'insane' queues

Bosses at Manchester Airport have apologised after UK Border Force staff struggled to cope with 'insane' queues at passport control. Frustrated passengers faced huge queues after a series of delayed and early flights landed at the same time. Some of the passengers posted pictures on social media and directed their anger towards the airport.

Jane Davis wrote on Twitter: "Landed in Manchester airport and there's a queue to get in the queue for passport control. This is a joke. I want to go home."

Alongside a picture of the snaking queue, Jon Turner directed his thoughts directly to the airport's Twitter account, writing: "Terrible queues at customs after landing at Manchester airport @manairport, one man fell on a walkway due to queues."

Posting another picture of a queue, fairycakepixie wrote: "Just insane queues @manairport."

A Manchester Airport spokesperson, said: "On March 6, due to several delayed and some early inbound flights arriving at once, queues did build up in the immigration hall. Whilst UK Border Force is responsible for passport

control and maintaining experience levels we apologise for any inconvenience to our customers and we continue work with them to ensure a smooth journey through the airport.”



A UK Border Force spokesman said: “Queues at Manchester airport were up to 15 minutes longer than our 25 minute service standard last night after a significant number of flights arrived outside their scheduled arrival times. We deployed all available resources to ensure passengers were seen as quickly as possible while maintaining border security.” (*Daily Mirror*)

United Kingdom – Jail for Ilkeston man who imported illegal drug from China

A convicted drugs offender who imported almost 500g of a substance similar to MCAT from China has been jailed for two years.



John Burke, who has a long history of convictions for drug offences, was caught after the package containing the ethylmethcathinone was intercepted by the UK Border Force at East Midlands Airport.

Burke, 42, initially told police that he had ordered the substance because he was trying to obtain a “mould removal chemical” for a car cleaning business. But, in court, Burke admitted fraudulent evasion of a prohibition of a class B drug.

Bob Sastry, prosecuting, said the offence related to Burke arranging for 495g of the drug to be sent to him from China to his home address in Ilkeston. “The defendant contacted the firm TNT on two occasions because it had not arrived,” said Mr Sastry. “On November 24 it was opened by UK Border Force at East Midlands Airport and found to contain the drug.”

When Burke was arrested, he had 0.53g of the Chloromethcathinone on him and in court admitted possessing a class B drug.

Derby Crown Court heard on March 13 that Burke was first convicted of drug offences in the 1990s, and in 1997 was jailed for cultivating cannabis. Since then he has been sentenced for possessing amphetamine, cannabis and LSD, for being concerned in the supply of drugs and for possessing cannabis with the intent to supply.

In January 2014, he was given a 12-month jail sentence, suspended for two years, for possessing MCAT with the intent to supply. The court heard that because of a previous conviction, the family home had been confiscated.

Jailing Burke, Judge John Wait said: “You’re 42 years of age, you have a family, children who are dependent up-on you and a wife who has been supporting you and standing by you for many years. But here you are again involved in drugs and on this occasion the importation of drugs.” He said the previous offending aggravated his case. (*Derby Telegraph*)

United Kingdom – Border Force officers at Stansted Airport arrest Polish woman for ‘smuggling opium’

An attempt to smuggle opium into the UK hidden in the false bottom of a suitcase has been foiled by Border Force officers at Stansted Airport.

Officers discovered approximately 5kg of the Class A drug – a reddish-brown, heavy-scented addictive substance prepared from the juice of the opium poppy – on March 12 when a passenger was stopped after arriving on a flight from Turkey. Following the seizure by Border Force, the investigation has been passed to the National Crime Agency.

A 20-year-old Polish woman, Ewelina Kukielka, has been charged with importing a Class A drug. Kukielka, of no fixed UK address, appeared at Chelmsford Magistrates Court March 14 and was remanded in custody to appear at Chelmsford Crown Court on April 11. (*Herts & Essex Observer*)

United Kingdom – Man who “elaborately” hid £80,000 worth of cocaine in bottom of bag at Gatwick Airport jailed

A man who “elaborately” tried to smuggle more than a kilo of cocaine into the UK by hiding it in the bottom of a holdall has been jailed after he was caught at Gatwick Airport.



Border Force officers stopped Dennis Aubin at Gatwick at the end of last year as he attempted to walk through the green “nothing to declare” channel after arriving at the airport from Port of Spain, in Trinidad and Tobago.

Officers searched his baggage on December 6, 2015, and noticed an unusually thick base to a holdall. Tests showed that the holdall’s rubber bottom had been impregnated with approximately 1.36 kilos of cocaine. Aubin was arrested and the investigation passed to the National Crime Agency.

The 58-year-old, from San Juan, in Trinidad was then charged with being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion or attempted evasion of the prohibition on

importation of the *Misuse of Drugs Act*. He pleaded guilty at Croydon Crown Court on March 14, and was sentenced to six years in jail on the same day.

United Kingdom – Woman charged after £100,000 of cocaine found in hot chocolate tins at Gatwick Airport

A woman has been charged with importing Class A drugs after £100,000 worth of cocaine was found inside hot chocolate tins at Gatwick Airport, the Home Office has said. Border Force officers at the airport found approximately 1.2 kilos of cocaine inside the drinking tins on March 21, after a suitcase was intercepted in the South Terminal. The luggage had arrived on a flight from St Lucia.

Janelle Nicole Mariate, 21, a French national from Martinique, was charged with importing a Class A drug. She appeared at Croydon Magistrates’ Court on March 22 and was remanded in custody until April 26.

United Kingdom – Trafficking fear as children allowed to use electronic passport gates for the first time

Children are being sent through electronic passport gates at British airports for the first time, prompting fears the fight against child trafficking will be undermined, leaked documents reveal.

The Home Office has approved a pilot scheme which allows children as young as 12 to use the “eGates” which automatically scan passports and compares them with biometric features of the traveller’s face. It means passengers who use the eGates can enter Britain without any human interaction with border guards.

Sources said there were concerns that children travelling under duress – to be sold into prostitution or domestic servitude – could be missed because they will not be seen at close quarters or spoken to by officials.

The leaked document says: “Home Office ministers have given Border Force approval to run a trial allowing GBR [Great Britain] passport holders aged 12-17 years of age use of gates. “Initially the trial will be piloted at Stansted and Glasgow airports, before national rollout is considered.”



A Border Force source said: “Some of us are very concerned this will open up the border to the prospect of children being trafficked. Officers feel very uncomfortable that children will be able to use these gates for the first time. Border Force officers are the first line of defence against child-traffickers, to protect young people from potential sex abuse and other perils. They take this role very seriously indeed.”

Previously travellers had to be at least 18 to use the eGates.

The leaked document, which forms part of an

operations manual for border guards who check passports in arrivals halls, says staff “must always be mindful of our duty ... to safeguard and promote the welfare of children”.

But it describes how a “pop-up message” will appear on the officer’s control screen when a child attempts to enter Britain through an eGate. It says the officer must “acknowledge the pop up by pressing the green ‘yes’ button on the touch screen”. If they “have concerns regarding a child using the gates they should press the ‘no’ button on the age warning pop up button”.

It is not clear how the officers would decide they have concerns about a particular child – apart from their physical appearance – without speaking to them. At no point does the operations manual instruct the border guard to approach the child or speak to them to assess their demeanour or make a judgment on whether they are travelling at will with parents or trusted adults.

The source said: “We are concerned that asking officers to simply press a button simply isn’t a good enough safeguard. This trial has not been properly thought through.” (*The Telegraph*)

United Kingdom – Border staff are needed more than ever, but are being battered by cuts

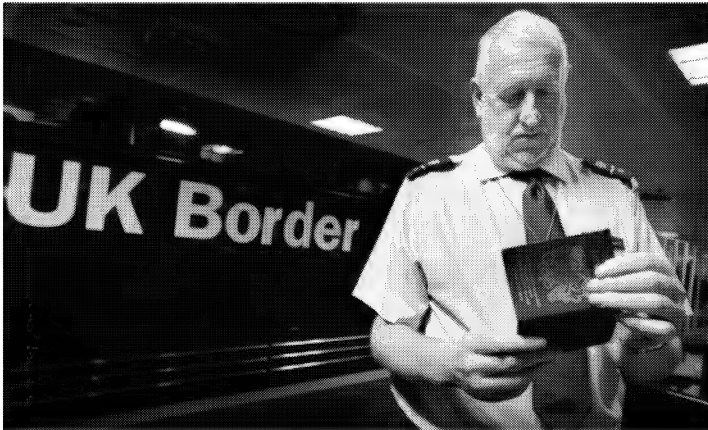
Barely a day goes by without immigration and border control making headlines. Both are political hot potatoes linked to the threat of terrorism, public safety, jobs, benefit spending, community cohesion and even “Brexit”. But what of the staff at the sharp end of this political “push me pull you”?

Border Force staff are faced daily with the competing pressures of keeping down airport queues and actually securing the border. The travelling public, and the port operators, don’t like queues. But the bunched arrival of several high volume or high risk flights can make this all but impossible to avoid. There are targets to be met, not only for the length of a queue, but also for customs activities such as the seizure of drugs and other illegal imports.

As if this were not enough, managers at our ports are consumed with work just to assuring the process. At any major port of entry, operational managers have to manage staff, deal with the public, authorise decisions, and complete more than 40 different paper and electronic logs every shift – simply so that more managers not directly involved in operational activity can be assured the job is being done.

Immigration enforcement staff are met by frequent protests and attacks from pressure groups opposed to the enforcement of immigration controls and borders. Where once this work was carried out with the assistance of the

police, cuts and other spending restrictions mean they are now alone. To make matters more complex, they have been issued with vans with Immigration Enforcement stencilled on them, ensuring they can be easily avoided, or targeted.



Officers at the channel ports are at the sharp end of the pressures of irregular migration, with thousands of people desperate to reach the UK by any means. The strain of daily finding people in, on, behind or under haulage vehicles weighs on them as it does on the transport operators. Coupled with this they routinely work shifts of 13 or 14 hours or more, unable to return to the UK because of disrupted or non-existent trains.

The pressures are not all due to spending cuts or political pressures. The Border Force is still recruiting and vacancies always have rafts of applicants. But recruits don't stay - and turnover is in some cases unusually high. Border staff are

expensive to train and when they leave in such numbers this resource is wasted. Many cite unpopular, inflexible rostering and dreadful morale as their reasons for leaving.

Longer-serving staff are also under greater pressure. Rosters often don't allow for caring responsibilities, and the requirement for staff in both Border Force and the separate Immigration Enforcement to be trained in arrest and re-certified each year puts massive pressure on an ageing workforce, with people finding they are not able to sustain this to retirement age – currently 67.

Both Border Force and Immigration Enforcement are staffed largely by committed and surprisingly loyal staff. But they are constantly battered. Resource the staff properly, give them the tools they need to do their jobs, and treat them well. Surely that is the least they have a right to expect. (*The Guardian*)

USA – Top border chief to agents who object to Obama amnesty: ‘Look for another job’

The man who oversees the U.S. Border Patrol said on March 1 that if agents have a problem with President Obama's deportation amnesty, they should quit.



The strong remarks by Customs and Border Protection Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske came as tensions between Congress and the White House grew even higher, with House GOP leaders announcing they'll hold an unprecedented vote to have their chamber join in the lawsuit trying to halt the amnesty.

House Speaker Paul Ryan said he and his troops are determined to send a message that Mr. Obama's moves have broken faith with the Constitution's division of power between the legislature and the executive branch. "This amnesty is a direct attack on the Congress's Article I powers under the Constitution," Mr. Ryan said. "The president is not permitted to write law. Only Congress is. The House will make that very clear."

Mr. Obama announced his new policy in November 2014, granting what he called "deferred action" to as many as 5 million illegal immigrants he said have deep ties to the

U.S. Those illegal immigrants were to be given a three-year stay of deportation, work permits and access to Social Security numbers, tax credits and some other government benefits.

The president also announced a new set of "priorities" for border and interior agents to follow, saying they should only target recent illegal immigrants and those with serious criminal records for arrest and deportation.

The deferred action part of his plans has been halted by lower courts, and he has appealed to the Supreme Court. Mr. Ryan said the House will weigh in with an amicus brief arguing Mr. Obama broke the Constitution's strictures by trying to rewrite immigration law on his own.

Meanwhile, the new enforcement priorities Mr. Obama announced are not part of the court case, but have proved controversial with the Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents who are tasked with enforcing the law.



In testimony to Congress in February, Brandon Judd, chief of the National Border Patrol Council, the labor union that represents line agents, said they've been told to reinstate the maligned catch-and-release policy of a decade ago. Mr. Judd said illegal immigrants without serious criminal convictions have learned that by claiming they came before 2014 — without even needing to show proof — they can be released immediately, and they disappear into the shadows.

Mr. Kerlikowske on March 1 objected to that description. He said every illegal immigrant over the age of 14 who is encountered by agents is supposed to be fingerprinted, interviewed and put through the usual process, including being turned over to ICE for

decisions on deportation. I would not stand by if the Border Patrol was releasing people without going through all of the formalities," Mr. Kerlikowske testified to the House Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Kerlikowske also questioned Mr. Judd's veracity, saying the NBPC was "probably not the most knowledgeable organization about what's actually going on."

And the commissioner said Mr. Judd and fellow agents who object to Mr. Obama's policies should usher themselves out of their jobs. "Well, if you really don't want to follow the directions of your superiors, including the president of the United States and the commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, then you really do need to look for another job," he said.

Shawn Moran, vice president of the NBPC, took "great offense" to the commissioner's remarks. "When it comes to catch and release, Border Patrol agents are the only ones following the law. The commissioner can dress it up any way he likes, but even though we are documenting people, they are being released into American society, never to be seen again," Mr. Moran said.

He said the NBPC is directly in touch with line agents in the field, and said Mr. Kerlikowske gets his information filtered by layers of "yes men" at headquarters. Mr. Moran said agents do follow orders, even when they disagree with them, but have the right to speak out against them as well, and said the series of policies is taking a toll on the agency.

"This is part of the administration's strategy to demoralize and disrupt agents and completely dismantle immigration enforcement," he said. "They're going to make the job so unbearable because they know they have a very motivated workforce, a very patriotic workforce that wants to uphold the laws, yet we have the president of the United States and the commissioner of Customs and Border Protection directly going against the rule of law."

Mr. Kerlikowske even appeared to acknowledge problems with the demoralized workforce. Just minutes before he told agents to quit, he had told the committee that he's having trouble filling the number of slots Congress has funded. "We are not able to hire as fast as attrition," he said, calling it "very concerning." (*The Washington Times*)

USA – CBP at JFK seizes cocaine in food

An arriving passenger at John F. Kennedy International Airport had cakes that contained more than flour and sugar as U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists and officers discovered.

On March 1, CBP agriculture specialists were performing an x-ray examination of luggage belonging to Mr. Jesus Martinez Ramirez, a citizen of Mexico, who had arrived on a flight from Mexico City, Mexico. CBP agriculture specialists performing the x-ray examination noticed an anomaly on the x-ray of a cake, and discovered that a package was concealed within the cake.



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CBP agriculture specialists requested assistance from CBP officers who escorted Mr. Martinez Ramirez to a private search room where CBP officers probed the concealed package producing a white powder that tested positive for cocaine. In total, CBP discovered five cakes that contained approximately 2 lbs. of cocaine.

CBP officers placed Mr. Jesus Martinez Ramirez under arrest and turned him over to the Port Authority Police Department. He now faces state narcotics smuggling charges and will be prosecuted by the Queens County District Court.

USA – CBP finds 55 sea horses in luggage

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists working at George Bush Intercontinental Airport discovered 55 dead seahorses (*Hippocampus* sp.) hidden in a traveler's luggage. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), there is a passenger baggage limit of four seahorses per passenger.



The traveler, a visitor from Vietnam arrived, March 1, and declared that he was not carrying any agriculture-related items. However, when CBP agriculture specialists examined his luggage, the traveler admitted he was bringing fish into the country. During their inspection, agriculture specialists discovered a soft drink bottle wrapped in a white bag with the seahorses submerged in liquid.

CBP detained the seahorses for FWS inspectors. Seahorses are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora because they are over-harvested for aquarium trade and medical research.

FWS inspectors seized all 55 seahorses since the passenger exceeded the limit and failed to declare the seahorses.

USA – CBP officers foil attempt to smuggle Brazilian man in gas tank

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Calexico East port of entry thwarted a human-smuggling attempt after discovering a man concealed in a compartment in the gas tank of an SUV. The incident occurred at about 3:15 a.m. on March 1, when a 40-year-old male U.S. citizen entered the East port driving a 2001 Toyota Sequoia. A CBP officer referred the vehicle and driver for further examination.



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While conducting an intensive inspection of the SUV, officers used the port's imaging system and discovered anomalies in the vehicle's gas tank and under the rear seats. The officers continued searching the area and discovered a man hidden inside the partially modified gas tank.

Officers extracted the man, a 38-year-old Brazilian citizen, from the compartment and escorted him to a secure location for further processing. Officers confirmed that the man had no legal ability to enter the United States.

The driver, a resident of Calexico, was arrested and will face federal charges related to the incident. He

was later transported to the Imperial County Jail to await arraignment. CBP placed an immigration hold on the Brazilian man to initiate removal from the United States at the conclusion of the driver's criminal proceedings. CBP officers seized the vehicle.

USA – Grandma who tried to smuggle heroin-filled fish into U.S. sentenced to 27 months in prison

A 64-year-old Ghanaian woman was sentenced on March 4 to more than 27 months in prison for smuggling heroin into the U.S. stuffed inside dried fish. Rose Amanor was nabbed at Kennedy Airport with three kilos of heroin, and failed to convince a federal jury in Brooklyn that she had been duped by her son into bringing the bag of fish to New York City.



Amanor faced up to 6 1/2 years behind bars and her lawyers begged for mercy citing her advanced age and poor health, requesting a sentence of time served so she could return to Africa. But Federal Judge Eric Vitaliano, a native of Staten Island where heroin overdoses outpace murders, said punishment was in order for Amanor, citing "the incessant number of fish stories" she has told authorities.

Vitaliano pointed out that cops must carry antidote kits to save overdose victims and if the "poison" Amanor was carrying had not been intercepted, it would have been "let loose to wreak havoc on young people."

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"I find it totally incredible that Mrs. Amanor didn't know what it was that she was doing," Vitaliano said. "It certainly was a disrespect for the law, sitting in this courtroom and spinning this incredible tale under oath."

Amanor has served about 13 months since her arrest last year, and will be deported to Ghana after completing her time. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Bini told the judge that the government did not oppose a sentence that was lower than the federal guidelines, but did oppose giving her time served because she committed perjury on the witness stand and because of the large amount of heroin she was caught carrying. (*NY Daily News*)

USA – CBP Minneapolis seizes opium concealed in powdered drink mix



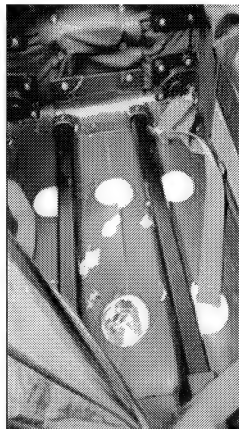
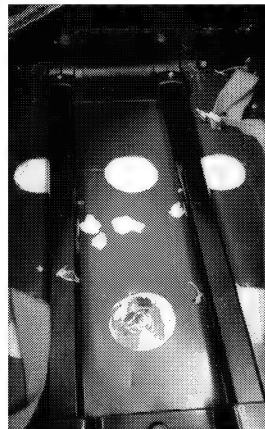
On March 4, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport seized more than 30 pounds of opium powder discovered in a passenger's luggage.

While conducting examinations of arriving passengers, CBP officers found substance in the bag of a 35-year-old woman arriving from Laos via Tokyo.

During the baggage inspection, CBP officers noted there was an unusually large amount of dried beverage powder. They opened a packet of what was listed as green tea mix and found a dry, brown powder that tested positive for the presence of opium. In total, 33.5 pounds of opium was collected and seized. The passenger was arrested and turned over to local authorities for prosecution.

USA – CBP at JFK 'doubles up' smugglers

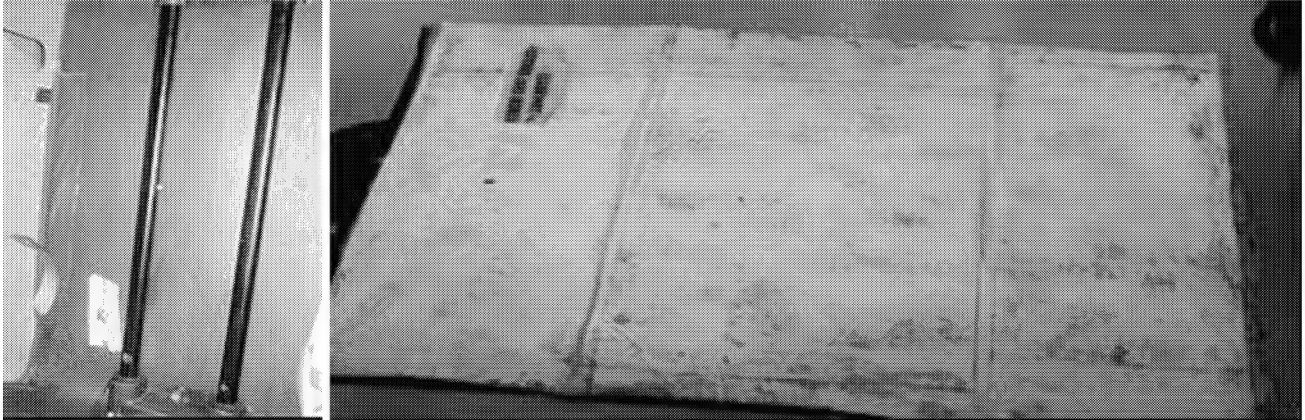
U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers pulled off the 'double play' when two passengers had more than



personal items in their checked-in luggage at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

On March 5, CBP officers intercepted passenger Ms. Elisabethmone Lewis, a United States citizen, arriving from St. Lucia. When Ms. Lewis presented herself for examination, CBP officers noticed that the bottom of her suitcase was unusually thick. She was escorted to a private search room where her checked-in suitcase was probed revealing a white powder that tested positive for cocaine.

On March 6, CBP officers intercepted passenger Ms. Anne Cadet, a Haitian citizen, arriving from Haiti. Ms. Cadet presented one suitcase for examination to CBP officers, who noticed that the bottom of her suitcase was unusually thick. She was escorted to a private search room where her checked-in suitcase was probed revealing a white powder that tested positive for cocaine.



Ms. Lewis and Ms. Cadet were arrested for the importation of a controlled substance and were turned over to Homeland Security Investigations. Ms. Lewis was attempting to smuggle approximately 3 lbs. of cocaine. Ms. Cadet was attempting to smuggle approximately 5 lbs. of cocaine.

USA – CBP intercepts 359 lbs of Phenobarbital tablets

Importer fails to notify DEA of transshipment

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport seized 250,000 Phenobarbital tablets valued at \$140,000, March 7. Phenobarbital is a Schedule IV controlled drug.



“This seizure which began with the review of entry documents and resulted in the seizure of more than 350 pounds of a Scheduled IV controlled drug is indicative of the careful attention to detail CBP officers employ to enforce hundreds of U.S. laws on behalf of other federal agencies,” said CBP Port Director Cleatus P. Hunt Jr.

CBP officers discovered the 12 boxes of Phenobarbital tablets when they selected the shipment for inspection. CBP officers examined the boxes and found more than 350 pounds of the Schedule IV narcotic. Since U.S. laws requires importers to notify the Drug Enforcement Administration 15 days in advance for any transshipments of Schedule IV drugs, CBP verified with DEA and discovered no such advance notice was provided.

The shipment originated in Taiwan and was transiting through the U.S. destined for Nicaragua when CBP officers seized it.

USA – CBP officers in Fort Lauderdale arrest man wanted for sexual activity with a child

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) arrested a man on March 8 wanted for sexual activity with a child.

CBP officers working at the airport encountered Patricio Gonzalez, 56, arriving on a flight from Ecuador. During the inspection process, CBP officers determined that the man an outstanding warrant for sexual activity with a child and lewd or lascivious molestation issued out of West Palm Beach, Florida.

The individual, a citizen of Ecuador, was subsequently arrested by CBP officers and turned over to the Broward County Sheriff's Office for extradition.

USA – Customs officers shoot at stolen truck; driver flees

Customs officers shot at a truck whose driver led officers on a chase from La Jolla to the San Ysidro border crossing, where the suspect ditched the vehicle and fled. The white 2004 white Ford F-250 was reportedly stolen from a UC San Diego parking lot about 10 a.m., university spokeswoman Laura Margoni said.

The pursuit began when a college police officer saw the truck traveling south on Interstate 5 and tried to pull the vehicle over. The driver sped off, driving across the Coronado Bridge, before heading back onto south I-5, Margoni said.



In Chula Vista, California Highway Patrol officers took over the chase. The truck was travelling at speeds of about 100 to 105 mph, CHP Officer Tony Contreras said. They ended the pursuit at Dairy Mart Road, and notified U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the border crossing about the fleeing truck, Contreras said.

Customs officers at the San Ysidro port tried to stop the vehicle, but the driver did not comply with their commands and sped forward, customs spokeswoman Angela De Cima said. The officers shot at the truck as the driver sped toward the Mexican border, she said. It was not clear how many officers fired.

A witness said the officers shot at the tires, but the driver continued toward the Mexican border, striking a Border Patrol vehicle and a guardrail. Mexican media reported the suspect got away, possibly through canals near the border crossing. (*The San Diego Union-Tribune*)

USA – Federal authorities find heroin in backpack at Orlando International Airport

Federal authorities at Orlando International Airport arrested a suspected drug smuggler after discovering 6 pounds of heroin hidden inside a backpack during enforcement operations.

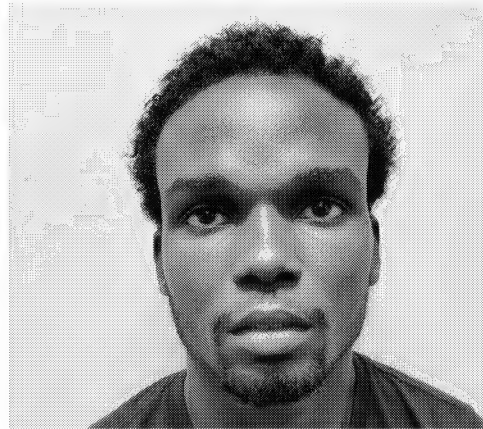
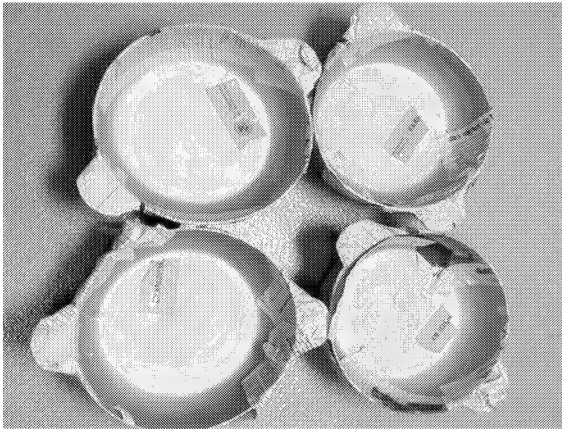


On March 12, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers encountered a 38-year-old man arriving on a flight from Mexico City during inspection operations. CBP officers became suspicious after examining the traveler's backpack and detecting inconsistencies in the weight and feel of the padding. After escorting the man to a search room for further examination, CBP officers discovered five packages concealed within the lining of the backpack. A sample from a package field tested positive for heroin.

USA – Border agents discover 22 pounds of cocaine hidden inside cooking pots at Kennedy Airport

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers with a nose for narcotics discovered 22 pounds of cocaine hidden inside cooking pots smuggled into Kennedy Airport, authorities said.

The owner of the four pots, Stanley Chery, arrived March 13 on a JetBlue flight from Port Au Prince, Haiti, according to a complaint filed in Brooklyn Federal Court. The pots appeared to have suspiciously thick bottoms so the officers probed further and found a white powdery substance which tested positive for cocaine, the complaint states.



Chery, 21, was ordered held without bail at the Metropolitan Detention Center. The cocaine has an estimated street value of \$371,000. Chery admitted that everything in the checked bag belonged to him. (*NY Daily News*)

USA – Federal agents at SFO find opium smuggled inside soap

Narcotic traffickers seem to be getting even more creative in their attempts to smuggle illegal drugs into Northern California.

The latest example arrived at San Francisco International Airport inside a box of soap. Federal agents grew suspicious after they took an X-ray of the box. So they opened it up, and cut open a bar of soap. Then they found a bag of opium. Each of the 66 bars of soap had been hollowed out and filled with the drug.

“The soap bars look like whole bars. They came in actual boxes of soap, just like you would buy in a supermarket. They cut open the soap and each individual box was filled with opium,” Frank Falcon from Customs & Border Protection said.

Customs agents found almost nine pounds of opium inside the soap. Federal authorities are now looking for the intended recipient of the drug. (*ABC 7 News*)

USA – Flight attendant leaves 70 pounds of coke at TSA checkpoint

A skittish flight attendant heading to LaGuardia Airport flew into a panic at a security gate, ditching two suitcases full of clothes, condoms — and nearly 70 pounds of cocaine — before kicking off her Gucci shoes and escaping.



The unidentified woman was trying to catch a red-eye flight from LAX to New York at 7 p.m. March 18 when she was randomly stopped at a checkpoint reserved for airline workers, according to the LAPD.

Normally, flight crews using that gate get minimal scrutiny. But the nervous drug mule got unlucky — and was randomly chosen to have her bags inspected. Realizing she was on the brink of being busted, cops said, the female flight attendant got nervous. She used her cellphone to make a call to someone, speaking in a language that the agents did not recognize as English or Spanish.

As security escorted her to the front of the screening area, she finally came to the conclusion that the jig was up — and took off running, according to police. She made it about 15 feet with her carry-on bags before ditching them — leaving behind a large cache of dope. She also abandoned her designer footwear.

“She kicked her high heels off and left her shoes and bag behind,” said Marshall McClain of the Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association. “She knew if she dropped both of them, she’d be able to run away more quickly,” he explained. “She was then able to high-foot it out of the terminal, down an up escalator while barefoot, where we assume she got into a car and took off to parts unknown.”

In her bags, TSA agents found clothes, Trojan Magnum condoms and 68.49 pounds of cocaine wrapped in green saran wrap and labeled “BIG Ranch,” cops said. She also left behind her leather, size 8½ Gucci shoes.

Even though the woman showed TSA agents her ID and really was a flight attendant, no one at the TSA got her name, police said. “This is a big security failure as far as I’m concerned,” McClain said. The TSA declined to comment on the incident.

Authorities said that she was scheduled to board Flight 028 from LAX to LaGuardia on March 18. (*New York Post*)



USA – CBP seizes \$44K in unreported currency at Washington Dulles International Airport

U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Washington Dulles International Airport seized \$44,922 March 20 from a Maryland man for violating federal currency reporting regulations.

A man was boarding a flight to Belgium and was selected for questioning by CBP officers who were conducting an outbound enforcement operation on an international flight. The man completed a financial form, reporting \$30,000 however; a total of \$44,922 was discovered within two envelopes on his person. CBP officers seized the \$44,922 and advised him how to petition for the return of the rest of the currency.

USA – Immigrants from terror hubs claiming ‘credible fear’ to seek US asylum

Hundreds of illegal immigrants from terror hotspots are using what critics describe as loopholes in U.S. immigration policy to try to remain in the country indefinitely, according to data obtained by Congress.

Taking a page from the playbook used by Central American women and children to gain U.S. entry, hundreds of immigrants from Egypt, Somalia, Pakistan, Iran and Syria caught entering the U.S. last year made asylum claims to avoid deportation – and, in doing so, asserted they had a “credible fear of persecution.”

This phrase is important because it allows them to be released and work in the U.S. Prior to 2009, the U.S. held in custody many asylum seekers entering the U.S. illegally until their cases were resolved in court -- but an Obama administration policy change allowed those fearing persecution to be released.

Stats obtained by the subcommittee from October 2014 to September 2015 show that the bulk of the “credible fear” claims still are coming from Central American and Mexican immigrants. But 80 were from Syrian nationals, 191 were from Pakistani nationals, and 776 were from Somalian nationals.

"They are coming through the backdoor," Judd said. "Do I believe they have a credible fear? In a small percentage, maybe. But the vast majority we arrest are telling our agents that they are coming because they know they will be released. That's why they are coming."

Judd said illegal immigrants have found a second loophole as well. By claiming they arrived in the U.S. before 2014, immigrants are able to avoid detention and deportation.

Here's why: In January 2014, President Obama announced his "priorities" program, which ordered agents to worry chiefly about criminals, national security risks and illegal immigrants who came into the U.S. after that date. Judd claims supervisors at the Mexican and Canadian borders have told agents not to bother turning other immigrants over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement since "they won't be deported anyway."

"President Obama said we need to take these people out of the shadows. The fact is we took them out, and now we are releasing them right back into the shadows. What was the point?" he said. "The court system is so backlogged, we're told they are never going to see a judge anyway. So just let them go."

In the past, illegal immigrants from outside Mexico were subject to expedited removal. The process allowed agents to deport non-citizens without going through a formal and lengthy removal proceeding before an immigration judge.

Now, however, Judd said anyone who claims they've been living in the U.S. continuously from prior to 2014 is not even being turned over to ICE and given a "Notice to Appear" in court. "At least a NTA required them to show up in court. What we have now is amnesty through policy," Judd said. "We are flat-out letting them go." (FOX News)

USA – Flight attendant who left cocaine at LAX arrested in NYC

A JetBlue flight attendant who authorities said left behind nearly 70 pounds of cocaine after flinging off her Gucci heels and running from security at Los Angeles International Airport has been arrested in New York.



Marsha Gay Reynolds surrendered to federal authorities March 23 at John F. Kennedy International Airport, though it wasn't known how she reached New York. Reynolds was expected to be in federal court in Brooklyn on March 24, charged with cocaine possession with intent to distribute.

On March 18, Reynolds arrived at an LAX checkpoint in Terminal 4 wearing jeans, heels and a black suit jacket, carrying her "known crew member badge," according to an FBI affidavit. It wasn't known whether she was on duty at the time.

When Reynolds was chosen for a random security screening, TSA officer Jamie Samuel said the flight attendant became nervous and began looking around before pulling out her cellphone and making a call, according to the affidavit.

Samuel reported that Reynolds was talking on the phone in a foreign language as she was being taken to a secondary screening area, the affidavit says. Once in the secondary screening area, TSA officer Charles James asked for her identification.

"At this time, Reynolds dropped her carry-on luggage, removed her shoes and began to run away," according to the affidavit. James saw Reynolds run down an upward-moving escalator and out of the terminal, the affidavit says, adding that the officer didn't pursue her because her abandoned luggage was his main concern.

LAX police soon after found 11 packages of cocaine wrapped in green cellophane and labeled, "BIG Ranch" inside one of the bags Reynolds had left behind, the affidavit says. The cocaine weighed just over 68 pounds.

Marshall McClain, president of the union representing LAX airport police officers, expressed concern that officers were alerted about the unattended bag but not a suspicious person running through the airport. He said the case also shows why all flight attendants and other airport employees need to be screened.

"With her bringing this amount of narcotics in the airport, chances are this wasn't her first time through," said McClain, head of the Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association. "We're hoping this is a wake-up call to airport management as well as federal legislators."

The TSA has said that full screening of all employees would cost too much. Instead, the agency has urged airports to increase random screenings of workers and to keep background checks up to date. "We will pay particular attention to the insider threat," TSA Administrator Peter Neffenger told a Senate committee in March.

USA – Cincy customs officers find drugs hidden in chocolate, toys, Jesus statue

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in Greater Cincinnati have found drugs hidden in items including chocolate, statues and toys recently. One package came through manifested as "candy." Officers used an X-ray on the tub of chocolate icing and found some irregularities. They discovered a sealed bag with 2.5 pounds of heroin inside the chocolate.



In another shipment, a drug detection dog alerted CBP officers to narcotics in a shipment containing a saddle from Mexico. The saddle was clean, but the crate had methamphetamine powder concealed in its wooden slats.

Other recent smuggling attempts stopped by CBP officers included methamphetamines hidden in ceramic statues, tortilla presses and toy Ferris wheels. (9 WCPO Cincinnati)

USA – Delta employee with \$282,400 in backpack planned airport restroom delivery, feds say

An airline employee at Palm Beach International Airport has been arrested after he was found with \$282,000 in a backpack that he was instructed to deliver to a passenger in an airport restroom, according to a federal affidavit.

Jean Yves Selius, 26, of Boynton Beach, was taken into custody March 26. He faces a charge of illegal money transmitting.

According to the affidavit, the Delta Air Lines ramp agent was stopped by a U.S. Department of Homeland Security agent after he bypassed security checkpoints and used his employee badge to enter a secure area of the airport. A search of Selius' backpack revealed "large packets of cash wrapped in clear, vacuum-sealed bundles," Special Agent Jon A. Longo wrote in the affidavit.

Selius, who was dressed in plain clothes, told investigators that he was being paid \$900 to \$1,000 to give the backpack to an unidentified traveler in a bathroom at the airport, the affidavit said. Selius said the man was a passenger on a flight leaving PBI for New York's LaGuardia Airport later that morning.

Authorities determined that the backpack he was carrying contained \$282,400 in cash. Selius said he knew that the backpack contained a large amount of money and did not "come from a good cause," the affidavit said.

Selius said two men approached him about a year ago to make other drop-offs at the airport after learning that he worked there, the affidavit said. Selius said he had been paid \$3,900 total for smuggling money on four previous occasions. (Local 10 News)

USA – National Border Patrol Council endorses Donald Trump for president

The National Border Patrol Council is the official organization representing our nation's Border Patrol Agents. We represent 16,500 agents who selflessly serve this country in an environment where our own political leaders try to keep us from doing our jobs.



The NBPC has had a longstanding practice of not endorsing presidential candidates in the primaries. We will not, however, shy away from voicing our opinions as it pertains to border security and the men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol. As such, we are breaking with our past practice and giving our first-ever endorsement in a presidential primary. We think it is that important: if we do not secure our borders, American communities will continue to suffer at the hands of gangs, cartels and violent criminals preying on the innocent. The lives and security of the American people are at stake, and the NBPC will not sit on the sidelines.

As an organization we expect our elected officials to aggressively pursue the interests of the country. America has already tried a young, articulate freshman senator who never created a job as an attorney and under whose watch criminal cartels have been given the freest border reign ever known.

Unlike his opponents, Donald Trump is not a career politician, he is an outsider who has created thousands of jobs, pledged to bring about aggressive pro-American change, and who is completely independent of special interests. We don't need a person who has the perfect Washington-approved tone, and certainly NOT another establishment politician in the W.H. Indeed, the fact that people are more upset about Mr. Trump's tone than about the destruction wrought by open borders tells us everything we need to know about the corruption in Washington.

We need a person in the White House who doesn't fear the media, who doesn't embrace political correctness, who doesn't need the money, who is familiar with success, who won't bow to foreign dictators, who is pro-military and values law enforcement, and who is angry for America and NOT subservient to the interests of other nations. Donald Trump is such a man.

Mr. Trump is as bold and outspoken as other world leaders who put their country's interests ahead of all else. Americans deserve to benefit for once instead of always paying and apologizing. Our current political establishment has bled this country dry, sees their power evaporating, and isn't listening to voters who do all the heavy lifting. Trump is opposed by the established powers specifically because they know he is the only candidate who actually threatens the established powers that have betrayed this country.

You can judge a man by his opponents: all the people responsible for the problems plaguing America today are opposing Mr. Trump. It is those without political power – the workers, the law enforcement officers, the everyday families and community members – who are supporting Mr. Trump.

Mr. Trump will take on special interests and embrace the ideas of rank-and-file Border Patrol agents rather than listening to the management yes-men who say whatever they are programmed to say. This is a refreshing change that we have not seen before – and may never see again.

Mr. Trump is correct when he says immigration wouldn't be at the forefront of this presidential campaign if months ago he hadn't made some bold and necessary statements. And when the withering media storm ensued he did not back down one iota. That tells you the measure of a man. When the so-called experts said he was too brash and outspoken, and that he would fade away, they were proven wrong. We are confident they will be proven wrong again in November when he becomes President of the United States.

There is no greater physical or economic threat to Americans today than our open border. And there is no greater political threat than the control of Washington by special interests. In view of these threats, the National Border Patrol Council endorses Donald J. Trump for President – and asks the American people to support Mr. Trump in his mission to finally secure the border of the United States of America, before it is too late.

USA – Orange County man convicted of smuggling Asian songbirds into the U.S.

A Los Angeles federal jury has convicted a Garden Grove man of smuggling Asian songbirds into the United States concealed in his suitcase at Los Angeles International Airport. Can Thanh Nguyen, 63, was found guilty March 31 of importing and bringing Asian songbirds into the United States in violation of federal law.

Nguyen, who had a long history of international travel, landed at LAX April 20 of last year. At a U.S. Customs and Border Protection kiosk, Nguyen stated he was not carrying any animals or animal/wildlife products. However, he was subsequently referred by a CBP officer to a secondary agricultural inspection point. While Nguyen was in that inspection area, CBP personnel discovered 27 Asian songbirds that had been carefully concealed in his suitcase. The birds were hidden in cages wrapped in foil or newspaper underneath a layer of foil and clothing to avoid detection.

Eleven of the Asian songbirds found in Nguyen's suitcase were identified as Chinese Hwamei, *Garrulax canorus*, a type of Asian songbird which is protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna. Two of the birds found in the suitcase were already dead, and several others died shortly after.

Nguyen's sentencing is set for June 27. He faces a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison.

US Virgin Islands – CBP arrests woman attempting to smuggle marijuana into St. Thomas

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers arrested a woman attempting to smuggle marijuana into the island.

Deangelia D. Quintana, 30, made her initial appearance March 4 before U.S. Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller after being charged in a complaint with possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

Quintana arrived at the Cyril E. King Airport, on board a flight from Atlanta. CBP officers approached Quintana as she removed two bags from the carousel at the baggage claim area. Quintana was taken to secondary inspection where CBP officers searched her bags and discovered a large bundle of plastic in each bag.

Within the plastic, CBP discovered approximately 23 kilos of what was field tested to be marijuana. When questioned, Quintana admitted that the bags were hers. Quintana was detained pending detention hearings.

Vietnam – Two Thai passengers arrested at airport



Customs officers at Noi Bai International Airport on March 4 arrested two Thai people for illegally storing a small gun and bullets in their baggage.

One woman, Phositthiphan Sumalee, 39, and one man, Phositthiphan Rachasak, 42, arrived at the airport at 2:17pm on a Qatar Airways flight from Bangkok, Thailand. Customs officers found the gun while checking their baggage. They had not informed the customs officers about the gun. (*Việt Nam News*)



Michael Bahls receives his thirty-year certificate.

VIA 1987



(L-R) Brian Flagel, Sheilen Raja, Gord Redmond, Kim Scoville, Bob Pedersen, Dave Harris.

Bob Pedersen

**Superintendent
CBSA, Vancouver International Airport**

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Canada Border
Services Agency

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Enforcement Report CBSA Vancouver International Airport April 2016



PROTECTION • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

Canada

VIA ENFORCEMENT REPORT #73: HAPPY NEW FISCAL YEAR!

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DISTRICT SUMMARY

We made 103 seizures in April, up from 87 in the same period last year. There were also 17 AAMPs issued.

The big drug seizures were all in domain, with three methamphetamine seizures taking top spot. We in Passenger Operations tended to concentrate on currency seizures, making 40 of them in April. Drugs accounted for 37 seizures in the district, followed by tobacco with eight and three of weapons. Johnson Cheng led the way with eleven seizures, with Manjit Pooni in second place with six.

STAFF CHANGES

Joining the mass exodus from VIA to Pacific Highway District in April were Sean Ahmadzai, Anna Henderson, Sarwan Kumar, Dhar Pahal and Sarina Prasad. Coming the other direction was Bradley Van Loo.

NARCOTICS

On April 5, **Jennifer Wilson** examined a shipment 1 that was destined to a consignee who was found to have a previous seizure of steroids against him. Two of three samples sent to the CBSA lab were analyzed as 513 grams of oxandrolone, aka Prasterone or DHEA.

On April 7, while conducting warehouse rummages at Swissport, **Siobhan Deol**, Ray Chui and **Nanette Anderson** were asked by an employee to examine two boxes declared as " " that they were planning to send to . The shipment was sent from and was destined to a

consignee in Vancouver, but no address was provided, just a phone number. The shipment was found to contain

Ionscan and NIK swabs were positive for methamphetamine. A total of 11.2 kg was seized. A controlled delivery was declined.

On April 11, **Ray Chui** and **Amanda Ellis** intercepted 2.044 kilograms of methamphetamine being exported to " " via FedEx. Ray examined a shipment declared as " " with a value of \$325 that was being sent from an individual in Vancouver to an individual in . The shipment contained a few

new clothing items and a pair of boots. The methamphetamine was found in " " inside the shipment, minimally concealed.



On the 14th, **Tracey Skelton** examined a shipment at FedEx and found four bottles of different-coloured pills, some with stamps and some without. The shipment was person-to-person from to Surrey and the bottles were

lonscan and NIK tests were both positive for methamphetamine. The shipment contained a total of 280 pills seized as methamphetamine.



As part of ' targeting drug smugglers coming for Vancouver's annual 420 smoke-up, **Manjit Pooni** roved a man off l April 19 who said he was here for four days to vacation with his friend. He appeared to be under the influence, and when asked if he uses narcotics, he admitted that he had used marijuana that morning. An examination of his backpack produced a plastic bag containing a brown paste, which the man admitted was "marijuana shatter". He was arrested for smuggling. Additional "marijuana shatter" was located in his baggage. RCMP attended but did not recommend charges. When informed of his inadmissibility he withdrew his application to enter Canada and departed that evening on

On April 27, while examining C-LVS shipments at the DHL warehouse, **Nanette Anderson** and **Russell Parker** examined a 26 kg shipment declared as that had been referred by Intelligence Officer Courtice. The shipment was arriving from and is destined to an individual in Vancouver. The

shipment was a :
BSOs came upon

. Upon dismantling the

a brown soft, sticky substance was found. An lonscan of the substance was positive for heroin/opium. The weight of the extracted opium was 2.4 kg. RCMP declined a controlled delivery.

On April 28, a man booked to fly to via TPE on was roved outbound by **Navi Toor**. The currency legislation was explained and the man who said, "*I am travelling with less than \$10000, I'm under.*" He appeared to be nervous and was subsequently selected for a verification. The man's carry-on luggage was examined and a strong odour of marijuana was present. He admitted

that he smoked marijuana before he came to airport. He was released but a full examination of his checked bags was completed airside. The search revealed marijuana hidden
The man was located at the gate and arrested and escorted to Secondary but no further contraband was detected. RCMP attended but declined to pursue charges.

On April 28, **Nanette Anderson** and **Dominique Albert** were conducting outbound courier examinations at the DHL warehouse. They selected a 47 lb. shipment declared

destined for _____ for further examination. The shipment contained a large _____ wrapped in bubble wrap surrounded by Styrofoam peanuts. _____ was X-rayed multiple times

and appeared to show inconsistencies in the density _____. Nanette drilled the base _____ revealing a white crystalline powder under about two cm of plaster. An Ionscan of the powder was positive for

methamphetamine, as was a NIK test. A sample of the substance was sent to the CBSA lab who confirmed that it was methamphetamine. The RCMP declined a controlled delivery. The final weight of the seizure was 1.005 kilograms.

WEAPONS

On April 4, **Manvir Moore** roved _____ who had arrived on _____ On March 7 _____ was examined outbound by rovers and an ORS was submitted due to their concerns. _____ who travelled on two third party-paid tickets, has been unemployed for the last five years, just working odd jobs to make ends meet. He was unable to provide any details of what he did _____ other than walk around the market and go to parks. During a luggage examination a toiletries bag was found to contain brass knuckles and a switchblade for which _____ was arrested.

On the 12th, _____ returned from _____ ABC referred him as a Caution Victor. _____ told **Danielle Getzie** that he had never had any issues

_____ A baggage examination revealed a set of

brass knuckles concealed in his suitcase. RCMP took [redacted] into custody and the brass knuckles were seized with no terms of release.

Two weapons were seized in separate incidents April 14th. First, **Aman Bhalru** examined a Surrey man returning from [redacted]. During the examination the unemployed man admitted that [redacted]

[redacted]. During the baggage exam a Taser was found hidden in the bottom of the man's bag, for which he was arrested. The man said he brings one in every time he travels! The pills were found to not actually be methadone but a Schedule F substance.

Then a [redacted] North Vancouver man returned from [redacted]. He appeared nervous during questioning and was subsequently selected for an examination. During examination, **Param Jassal** found a set of brass knuckles and five undeclared cartons of cigarettes. The man admitted to intentionally not declaring them. He was given one carton of cigarettes and the remaining four cartons and the brass knuckles were seized for non-report.

On April 25, [redacted] arrived and was referred as an NTC lookout. A baggage exam by **Tim Duffy** yielded a spring-loaded knife. Indices queries indicated that [redacted]. He was arrested for breach of conditions. RCMP attended and took him into custody.

PORNOGRAPHY / CHILD ABUSE IMAGES

On April 2, an [redacted] was free-carded at PIL but roved by **Samar Siksik**. The man was nervous and appeared to be lost so he was selected for a secondary exam. Upon examination of the man's phone, an image depicting child pornography was found. He was arrested and RCMP attended but did not pursue charges. The man's iPhone was seized and he was ATL the same day.

ARRESTS / WARRANTS

On April 4, **John Kirkbride** arrested [redacted] who had returned from [redacted] and was the subject of two outstanding BC-wide warrants [redacted]. Richmond RCMP escorted [redacted] to the Richmond lock-up.

On the 10th, [redacted] arrived from [redacted] and was referred due to a BC-wide warrant [redacted] was arrested by **Mandeep Bahia**. RCMP attended and took her into custody.

On April 18, arriving [redacted] passenger [redacted]. Indices checks showed that he had an outstanding BC-wide warrant [redacted]

and [redacted] was arrested by **Brian Johnson**. RCMP arrived and took [redacted] into custody.

On April 24, [redacted] arrived off [redacted] and was an NTC lookout for a BC-wide warrant for uttering threats [redacted] and **Ryan Bra-zier** arrested [redacted]. Custody of [redacted] was transferred to Richmond RCMP.

Also on April 24, [redacted] arrived off [redacted] in transit from [redacted] was identified as having an active BC-wide warrant [redacted] and was met at the gate by **Darren Lal**, **Jaylem Dusanj** and Superintendent **Colin Orie**. Jaylem detained him and escorted to Secondary and, [redacted] arrested him. RCMP attended and took custody of [redacted]

On April 29, **Kimberly Cheung** arrested [redacted] who had returned on [redacted] in indices check revealed an outstanding BC-wide warrant [redacted] Custody of [redacted] was transferred to Richmond RCMP.

Lastly, [redacted] returned from [redacted] April 30, accompanied by her [redacted] son. A CPIC query was positive for an outstanding warrant [redacted] The warrant was confirmed and [redacted] was arrested by **Joyce Lawrence**. RCMP attended and issued her a Promise to Appear, after which [redacted] was released.

CURRENCY / PROCEEDS OF CRIME

On April 3, **Darren Lal** referred a [redacted] man who arrived on [redacted] to tour for four days and see his sister. He was asked at PIL if he had more than \$10,000 to which he said no, and he said the same in Secondary. However upon examination, **Paul Uljevic** discovered **\$39,800**. The man said he was told not to declare the currency by his sister who had purchased an apartment in Vancouver. Paul gave the man a break and only did a level one seizure.

The drinks are on him. Then [redacted] April 5, **Patrick Lai** Triage-referred a [redacted] Vancouver man after he declared US\$9000. Upon examination, **Bryce McRae** found he actually had **\$15,368.30**. When questioned about the origin of the money, the man said it was given to him by several friends; he then changed it to one friend but refused to provide details of this friend, referring only to him as "little brother". He said he went to his high school reunion [redacted] and took the money to show everyone that he had money. The story later changed again. Now he said that all of the [redacted] money was given to him by a man [redacted] He wouldn't discuss [redacted] any further.

When it was suggested that his money was proceeds of crime, the man stood silently for a moment, then nodded. He admitted that if he were a border officer, he would also suspect the money as proceeds of crime. When told that his money would be seized with no terms of release, the man began to sway back and forth before grabbing a bottle of Hennessy cognac and feigned breaking it over his head. The man shouted that he "really needed the money". Other officers responded and the situation de-escalated.

While conducting outbound checks on [redacted] April 8, **Adam Dunn** roved a [redacted] Burnaby man and his son who were travelling to [redacted] for nine days. They had not made a currency report. The son was found to be below the threshold and was allowed to continue on his travels. The father had more than \$10,000 but was unable to explain where it was from, saying he kept it at home in his closets. When pressed for details, he claimed it was from work, but could not remember when or where he last worked. Through further questioning, the man admitted that the money was from selling marijuana plants which he said he had a license to grow. The man was offloaded and in Secondary he provided details of marijuana cultivation, harvesting, and distribution and admitted to earning over \$10,000 so far this year from selling marijuana. His **\$11,130.35** was seized at level four.





On April 11, **Amandeep Saini** roved a
and selected her for a currency verification.



Coquitlam woman travelling to
during the verification, **\$12,588.82** was discovered. The woman claimed that the money was from her bank account but, when asked to provide proof, she then decided that half of it came from her safety deposit box and the other half came from a suitcase at home. She then said that it was from her bank account. Finally she concluded that all of the money was from her safe deposit box. An indices check was positive for the woman and she admitted that she had been arrested

She was unable to articulate where her money came from and when suggested that it was proceeds of crime, she remained silent but nodded her head. The currency was seized as Suspected Proceeds of Crime.

The next day, a
ing. She was identified at the carousel by DD **Jiggs** and handler **Mike Nugent** for excess currency.



| Coquitlam woman returning from

declared \$750 in cloth-

Prior to being examined, **Johnson Cheng** asked the woman where her money was and she said, *"I only have \$10,000 plus some small change in my purse."* She was asked if there was any more currency inside her checked luggage and she said *"100% no currency in there"*. But I wouldn't be writing this if she told the truth, would I? Johnson proceeded to find \$21,842 inside a pocket of a purse in the woman's checked bag. She admitted it was her purse but denied knowledge of the money, claiming that her mother placed the money there without her knowledge. In addition, two 100g gold ingots worth \$10,302 were found inside a ball cap mixed with clothing in a plastic bag. When she was asked why she didn't declare them, she said that she was carrying them for her husband who might be returning to Canada as a "returning resident". She wouldn't explain this comment. A checked of her cell phone found messages with her husband that she

would be making a false declaration. A level two seizure for non-report was made on the currency and the gold was seized at level one. TOR of \$3015.10 was paid.

Also that day, **Manjit Pooni** roved a

/oman travelling to

She ap-

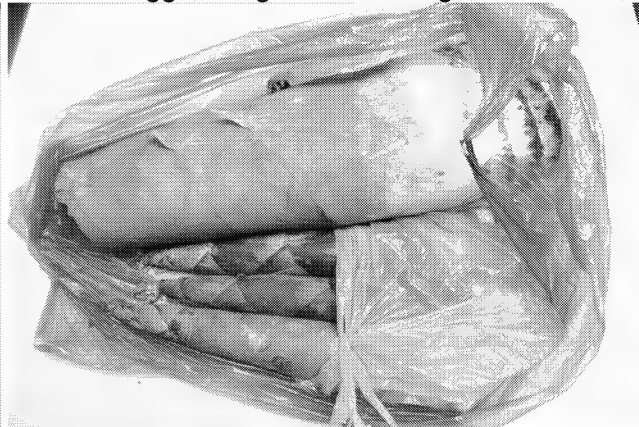
peared to be an overstay based on the stamps in her passport. She was escorted to the currency verification room where she said that she did not make a declaration and was aware of the reporting



requirements. She then presented a large bundle of currency which was over the reporting threshold. She claimed that the money was from her husband but when questioned further, she changed her story numerous times. She was offloaded and escorted to Secondary where she claimed that half of the currency in her possession came from her husband and half came from work. She said that she is married to a Canadian and has been here for three to four years on visitor extensions. She admitted to working illegally in Canada "giving massages". Through further questioning, she admitted that she has been working since 2012

She admitted that the money in her possession was from "work". The equivalent of **\$14,836.17** was seized as suspected proceeds of crime. At PRIES' request, the woman's passport was seized.

Patrick Lai made both a currency seizure and an AAMP on a man April 20. The man arrived off seeking entry for 17 days. He answered "no" to all E311 questions but a baggage exam revealed a bundle of bills totalling **\$27,222**, as well as 340g of pork sausage, two bags of beef flavour instant noodles, ten boiled eggs, 400g of chicken legs, duck livers,



pork sausages, and three kg of bamboo shoots with soil. A level one seizure was made on the currency and an AAMP for the food. The man paid the \$400 reduced penalty for the AAMP and \$250 for the currency. **Domenic Bruzzese** made the referral.

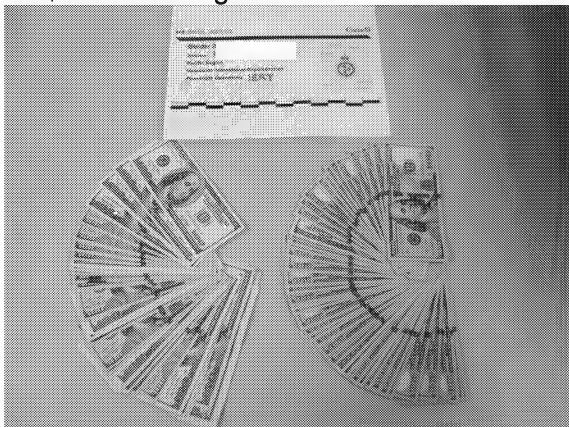
A level two seizure was made by **Alex Bonnis** on April 23 off a who arrived on seeking entry for two days to see his brother in Hamilton. **Devon Dhaliwal** made the referral. Alex's examination revealed bundles of money totalling \$16,490. When asked why he had the money, the man claimed that he was going to buy a car in Toronto. When told how implausible that was, he admitted it was to give to his brother so he could buy a house. A call to the brother confirmed this but he said the money was from his parents and siblings in the When confronted, the man still insisted that the money was his, but after more questioning, he dropped his head,

and admitted that it was true. The reason he did not admit to that was because he thought his original story made him "sound better". The equivalent of **\$20,959** was seized and a \$2500 penalty was paid.

On April 27, while conducting outbound checks, **Adam Dunn** roved a Canadian man, his sister, and her two adult children, who were travelling to . They had not made a currency report. Three were below the reporting threshold and were released. The . sister, however, had **\$20,755** and had difficulty explaining where it came from. First she said she kept it at home under her mattress, then she said she kept it in a safe deposit box. Due to the inconsistencies, she was offloaded from the flight. In Secondary, the woman claimed the money was from work, but was vague regarding her work, admitting at one point that she had been working for cash in what she described

. Through further questioning, the woman admitted that the money was repayment of a loan that she gave her brother so he could buy a house. She later said that the money was also to deal with court proceedings which stemmed from his arrest resulting from the allegation of operating an illegal marijuana grow operation. The money was seized as Suspected Proceeds of Crime.

I don't think an appeal will be successful. The last level four seizure of April was made by **Preet Bhuller** on the 28th. Preet roved a . who was accompanied by her two | brothers, . She said she was here for five days to help them get settled in Canada as they intended to study here. A baggage exam revealed currency totalling \$11,409 (US\$9007 and 520 Mexican pesos); she had made a nil declaration on her E311. She said that US\$4000 was a gift for their brothers from herself and her sister, US\$3000 was from various family



members, and the remaining US\$2000 was from fund-raising done by her family . She said they sold raffle tickets, however she could not explain why the money was all in \$100 bills. She later said that she could not positively say that the money was raised through fundraising; she said she thought by saying it was, it would "speed up the process." Her brothers claimed that their mother gave their sister the money.

A query of their visa applications revealed that both had answered "no" to having ever been refused a visa to any other country. As they was untruthful on their visa application, they was found to be inadmissible for misrepresentation. The woman's **\$11,409** was seized as Suspected Proceeds of Crime and she withdrew her application to enter Canada. All three departed on / April 29.

SEIZURES

On April 11, a Vancouver man returning from . was referred as a lookout as he had been the subject of a level one currency seizure by **Kam Khella** in 2014. During questioning, **Patrick Ridgley** noticed that the man was wearing an expensive ring and earring. When asked about them, the man said that the ring was purchased for \$9980 and the earring was purchased for \$2000 in 2012 . Neither were declared when imported. When asked why he failed to declare them, his rather pat answer was that he just forgot. The two items were seized for non-report with \$3594 TOR paid.



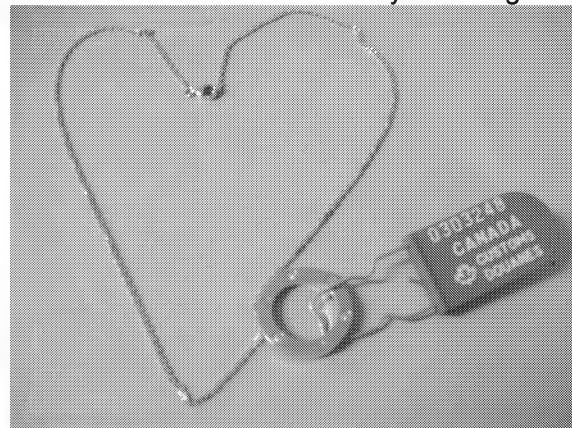
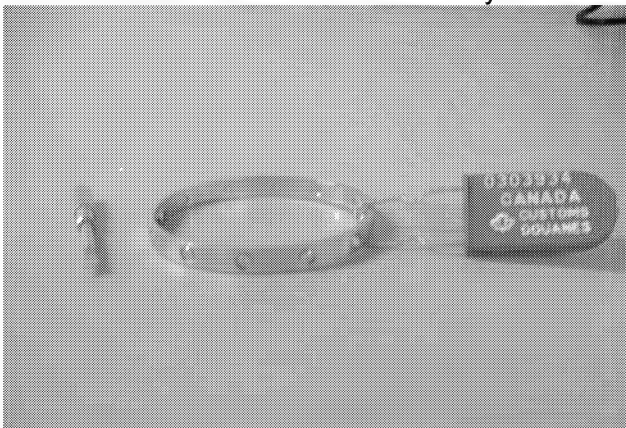
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A man returning from April 25 was an Intelligence lookout for tobacco smuggling. The man declared no excess on his E311 but during a secondary exam, **Jeff Lesage** and **Caralee Maxwell** found 148 cartons of cigarettes. The man said he had no knowledge of the cigarettes and claimed that his brother-in-law set him up. The cigarettes were seized and CIS is considering charges under the *Customs Act* and the *Excise Act*.

On the 27th, a Vancouver woman was referred as a drug lookout. The lookout mentioned a probability that she would be smuggling high-value commodities as well. The woman returned from and declared \$100 for a carton of cigarettes and small gifts for her children. She was wearing three pieces of Cartier jewellery which she said were gifts from her boyfriend for her birthday. When **Caralee Maxwell** asked her why she did not declare them she said that they were a gift. When



Caralee showed her the part of E311 where it mentions the words "acquire" and "gift", she then said that she thought her boyfriend purchased them in Toronto. An examination of her cell phone revealed a photo the woman had taken of a Cartier bag with four boxes in front of it which had been taken in . It was found that on a previous trip she had a receipt for a Cartier bracelet purchased in I . During that exam she told the officer that the bracelet was being sized or repaired and she would bring it back later. She now claimed that the receipt was for a different bracelet that was worth "much less" than the one she had with her, however she could not describe that other bracelet or whether she had declared it when she brought it to Canada. She then said she was unsure of their origin. A check of Cartier's website revealed that the bracelet was worth US\$14,600, the ring US\$3500 and the necklace US\$4000, for a total value of **\$27,876.94**. The prosecution warning was read and the items were seized at level one.

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Tracey Skelton seized 3.6 kg of loose tobacco on April 27 from a DHL LVS shipment from declared as "shoes for female". Along with shoes there was tea, clothing and the aforementioned tobacco. The shipment was destined for North Surrey and had been referred by **Nanette Anderson**.

IMMIGRATION

No work permit. On April 1, _____ man arrived _____ seeking entry for six months to visit relatives. During the examination, **Ray Louie** discovered that the man had lived in Canada for six months _____ The man said he works as a stock broker _____ and has never worked in _____

Canada but examination of his cell phone revealed text messages indicating otherwise. The man initially denied working but eventually admitted to working in Canada last year and to coming back to resume work on this trip. MD **Attila Szalay** issued him an exclusion order.

No work permit. Also on the first, a _____ woman _____ sought entry for 60 days to visit her friend and sightsee. She had third party-paid tickets and \$6000 in cash. When **Parveen Wahid** pressed her for details about her trip the woman could not even provide basic information about what she would do here. She eventually admitted she was coming to take care of a child. As for the \$6000, she said it was given to her by her new employer to show customs and prove that she had the funds to sightsee in Vancouver. She said the money would be returned to the employer once she had gained entry. An exclusion order was issued with same-day departure confirmed on _____ **Patrick Lai** made that referral.

No work permit. Moving up to April 5, a _____ man sought entry for six months on a one-way ticket. He had quit his job as a sushi chef in _____ address as his home address however he admitted that he has no fixed address. During a baggage inspection, **Chris Mota** found a set of professional chef knives and other culinary items (hat, sharpening tools), and messages on the man's phone revealed that he was looking for long-term housing in Vancouver. The man's mother was called and she said that her son was going to work in Canada as a sushi chef. An exclusion order was issued by MD **Julia Prinja** shortly thereafter. During the MD review, the man admitted that he was desperate to come to Canada as his girlfriend lives here. Try doing things legally then. Compliments to **Daniel Shih** for the referral.

Organized crime. Two of the more interesting immigration exams were conducted on April 7. A _____ man and woman, both _____ seeking entry for nine days of tourism. The two were lookouts for smuggling children into the US. They had one previous passage to Canada in February. They had a large



amount of clothing and documents pertaining to other individuals. An in-depth interview and examination by **Gary Sidhu** and **Darren Lal** resulted in the man admitting to smuggling two children into Canada in February via Toronto and on two previous occasions to the United States.

Coincidentally, on the previous day, the individual that they smuggled children for, was charged after the Police broke up a gang trafficking children. Both subjects, during the MD review, conceded to both allegations and asked to be removed from Canada as soon as possible. At an admissibility hearing they were found described in A37(1)(b). They departed, under removal order, April 9. The assist goes to **Carolina Escobar**, who commenced the exam.

No work permit. On the 8th, a man sought entry for 10 days to sightsee. He claimed to have no friends or family in Canada and would be staying in a hostel. He was unable to explain what he would do in Canada. **Sierra Hoskins** examined the man's luggage and discovered goodbye cards that implied that he would be in Canada for an extended period of time, and the man's media devices contained multiple local contacts. The man then admitted he had a friend whom he knew only as with whom he would be staying. just happens to own a construction company. The man was further questioned and eventually admitted he had asked to get him a job in construction. MD **Asha Chitchot** issued an exclusion order and the man departed back to the the following morning. **Louie Girouard** made the referral.

No work permit. Another citizen was excluded on April 14. This man arrived on seeking entry for 17 days to go with a tour group to Calgary. He provided **Tim Duffy** with an itinerary with lists of activities and hotels in Alberta but he was unable to name any specific places or sites that he would be visiting, other than saying he was a nature enthusiast and would just be following the tour group. He carried only \$500. The man's mobile phone revealed messages with a contact in Canada named . The man said that is his reception and that he would be staying with him for the duration of his trip. The messages from stated that the wait for a work visa would be long and that it would be easier to obtain a tourist visa to get into Canada. When presented with this information the man admitted that works for a company and that he was going to get him work at the company. He also admitted that the itinerary he provided was false. He was excluded and removed on that afternoon.

No work permit. Also on the 14th, a man off sought entry to resume studies at a language school. During an examination, the man admitted to rover **Manjit Pooni** that he has been working full-time as a waiter since December. He said he was fully aware that he required a work permit. He was planning on returning to work April 18 and admitted that he was not registered for any classes. An exclusion order was issued and the man departed on that night.

“I’m coming to Canada to play Frisbee by myself,” or, Anybody with a cover story like this deserves to be excluded. Jeff Toh roved an [redacted] man on April 15 who said he was here for four days for vacation. He said that he was going to play Frisbee. When asked where, he picked up his phone and did a Google search for parks in Vancouver and said that Queen Elizabeth Park looks like a good place. He was asked if he was travelling with anyone but he said no. He was then asked who he would play Frisbee with and he said by himself. He said he knows someone in Maple Ridge [redacted] and he’ll go there to check it out as he [redacted]. A baggage exam revealed fitness training manuals. When asked why he had them, he said that he’s constantly reading to keep up with the fitness trends. Upon further examination, it was revealed that he was actually coming to teach a fitness course in Maple Ridge. The man said he decided to lie about it because he did not know the requirements to teach here. He was excluded by MD **Robin Sagarbarria**.

No work permit. On the 18th, a [redacted] man [redacted] sought entry for 15 days to visit a “friend” in Edmonton, even though he had never met this friend and had little knowledge of him. He said he works [redacted] but he decided to travel as he was out of work at the moment. He later admitted to **William Itakura** that he has been unemployed for the past year. An examination of his luggage revealed a folder of tattoo designs and a large poster. When asked what he planned to do with it, he said it was a gift for a friend. When questioned further he eventually admitted the poster was actually the characters of his name. When pressed further he eventually admitted that he lied; he was actually [redacted] and he was coming to visit a friend who is also a tattoo artist. An exclusion order was issued by MD **Joan Leung** and the man left on [redacted] April 19. **Hans Park** was the PIL officer.

“I’m coming to Canada for four months so I can spend more time with my family” [redacted] Also on the 18th, a [redacted] man off [redacted] told PIL officer **Bunty Meldrum** he was here for a 120-day sightseeing trip. He said he was going to Toronto to see Niagara Falls and relax. He said he’s a freelance IT technician in [redacted] and can work remotely while in Canada. He was unable to provide meaningful details about what exactly he would do for sightseeing and could also only give a vague explanation as to why he needed to relax in Canada, other than to say he is forced to work late [redacted] and that by coming to Canada he would not have to work so much and could spend more time with his family. He has a wife and two young children [redacted] and could not explain how being in Canada for four months would afford him more family time. He had a printout of an address for a Canadian computer security company. **Peter Green** phoned that man’s wife, who said her husband was coming to Canada until at least December to work for a computer company. When confronted with this, the man hesitated but eventually admitted he was coming to work and had hoped to avoid detection. MD **Jeff Toh** issued him an exclusion order and he departed on [redacted] April 19.

No work permit. This next textbook exclusion happened on April 22. A [redacted] man arrived on [redacted] saying he wanted to visit his sister-in-law (unusual) for 80 days. **Chris Ko** referred him into the waiting hands of **Shayla Howard**. It seems the man had recently quit his job as a sushi chef and left his wife and two young children at home while he came to vacation in Canada (highly suspicious). When asked why he was coming here for so long without his family, the man said he has a strained relationship with his sister-in-law and he wanted to work on mending their relationship. Pressed further, he said his relationship with his wife was also strained because his sister-in-law pressured his wife into talking him into quitting his job

The man's ticket was purchased two weeks earlier by his sister-in-law and her husband who just happen to own a sushi restaurant in Burnaby (start the 44 paperwork). The man's luggage consisted of sushi cookbooks, sushi-making equipment as well as two full duffle bags of undeclared food including raw pig intestines (case closed). When presented with all the evidence, the man finally admitted what Shayla already knew, that he was coming to work for his sister- and brother-in-law at their restaurant. He was found inadmissible and was excluded.

No work permit. The subject of this next exclusion was kind enough to write a confession on a hundred dollar bill. An [redacted] man arriving from [redacted] on a one-way ticket April 26 sought entry for two months. He has been in and out of Canada for prolonged periods of time for the past two years, explaining that his wife lives in Canada and he comes to visit her. When rover **Jeff Toh** asked what he does when he's here, the man said he does nothing. Upon examination of his wallet a \$100 was discovered with the phrase, "*My first pay check in Canada Mar 6 2015*" written on it. He was asked about this and he did not answer, then said that he helped fix a car and the money was a present. Upon further interview, he admitted that he has been working as a sushi chef at [redacted] restaurant in Yaletown. The owner of the restaurant was contacted, however he denied being the owner and denied that the [redacted] has been working in [redacted]. He finally admitted that he did own the restaurant but claimed that the man helped for only one day. The man, however, admitted to having worked at the restaurant for the past eight months and to returning to resume his work. An exclusion order was issued by MD **Manvir Moore**.

No work permit. Also on the 26th was a [redacted] woman [redacted] who told PIL officer **Derrick Tsang** that she was here for 150 days to sightsee with a friend who lives in Moncton. She said that she would take day trips by vehicle to Niagara Falls "in Quebec", and other day trips to Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal. Through questioning, **Alexander Hobbs** discovered that she had just quit her job [redacted] however she insisted that she was not coming to Canada however she eventually admitted that her friend had a job for her at a sushi restaurant as a cook. She said her reception told her to say that she was just coming to sightsee because her work permit had not been approved. She was excluded and departed April 27.

No work permit. Yet another exclusion on the 26th was made on a [redacted] man who arrived on [redacted] seeking entry to sightsee, despite having no knowledge about Canada. **William Itakura** made the referral. The man has been residing [redacted] for two years where he works as a cleaner. **Rahim Bajwa** discovered that the man had made a refugee claim in [redacted] and changed his name [redacted]. It seems he changed his birthplace too, initially saying that he was born [redacted] and then changing it to [redacted]. Initial concerns were that the man was an imposter but examination showed the passport to be genuine. There were concerns regarding the legitimacy of the identity of the man, however. The man said that he resided in [redacted] for approximately seven years however he was unable to say the months or days of the week in [redacted]. When presented the [redacted] word [redacted] (Thursday) written on a note, the man said that the word meant "I love you". He was unable to explain his limited knowledge of [redacted] and also had difficulty recalling his mother's and father's names, even though they were listed on one of his [redacted] identity docs. The man said that he had no reception in Canada but his cellphone contained a Vancouver contact. There was also a text conversation between him and the contact regarding work. When the man was questioned about this, he

admitted to coming to Canada to work. MD **Graham Moffat** excluded him and the man departed to Oslo April 27.

No work permit. On April 27, **Pam Smith** referred a woman entering for one year to stay with a friend and visit her daughter. Her passport revealed that she was previously in Canada from April 2014 to April 2016. She was now returning after having been absent for only two weeks. To account for this two-year period she said that she took care of her friend. She gave **Jeremy Doiron** a phone number for this friend, which turned out to belong to the receptionist at a motel in Alberta. The receptionist revealed that the woman is an employee of the motel. Jeremy went back and asked the woman if she had ever worked in Canada. She said no. When confronted with what the motel receptionist had said, she admitted that she had worked at the motel and that she was returning to work on May 2. She was promptly excluded.

No work permit, or, There's two Vancouvers? A woman arrived on April 28 seeking entry for ten days of vacation. She said that she came to Canada last year but hurt her back so she couldn't have a good vacation. This trip therefore was to see things she did not get to see, and to explore Vancouver. She had booked a hotel for the duration of her stay in Vancouver, Washington. She was asked if she would stay at this hotel and she said yes. When asked how she would travel from Washington to BC every day, she said maybe by bus. She then said that maybe it was a mistake and she booked her hotel in the wrong area. **Jeff Toh** asked her for details about her trip but could not provide any. Further interview revealed that the last time she was in Canada she worked without authorization for four months as a housekeeper. She then said that the real reason for her coming to Canada was to find a job through local newspapers and work to save some money. She was asked if she had a work permit and she said "*what's that?*" An exclusion order was issued by MD **Manvir Moore**. She departed on April 29.

No work permit x2. On April 29, two men arrived as part of a tour group, claiming they just met on the plane. Passenger #1 was referred for examination by PIL officer **Joey Ahmadi**, while #2 was roved by **Brennan Loy**. In secondary, **Pepito Daelo** discovered #1's cell phone in #2's possession. Number 1 could not explain why a person he just met would have his phone. Number 2's unusual answer was that he could only have one carton of cigarettes so he gave one carton to his friend and the friend gave him



his phone for collateral. Through questioning, #1 admitted that he met a _____ on Facebook. _____ had posted that he was looking to hire staff for his restaurant _____ in Richmond. Both men just happen to be cooks _____. Number 1 said that _____ told him which tour to book. He also said that the tour guide examined all of the tour members' E311s and somehow correctly determined that #1 would be examined. The tour guide then told #1 to "make himself clean" so he gave his cell phone to #2. He said that #2 was also here to work for _____. Both men were excluded and departed the same day on _____.

No TRV. The last exclusion of April was rather interesting. A _____ man arrived on _____ on the 30th to study at Langara College for two years. Three days earlier, on April 27, he was offloaded from a flight to Canada by Canadian representatives as his visa application contained results of a test that were written by someone

posing as the man. His visa was subsequently cancelled. After being offloaded, the man was advised to report to the High Commission _____ with his passport to review his visa application but he chose to ignore this. He purchased another ticket to Canada on a different carrier as he did not want to risk his visa being cancelled physically. He eventually admitted to **Bunty Meldrum** that he had a different individual take his English exam to meet the program requirements. An exclusion order was issued and the man departed on _____ May 1.

AGRICULTURE



First we have a _____ man who was free-carded by ABC on April 2 but intercepted at the _____ carousel by DD **Ashton**. During the ensuing exam, **Nicole Bussanich** found a package of orchids and a cactus. The man confirmed he had purchased the orchids at a market and that they were for planting. He said he didn't declare them because his travelling companion completed his E311 card. The orchids were held for CITES and a \$1300 AAMP was issued. The man paid the reduced penalty of \$650.



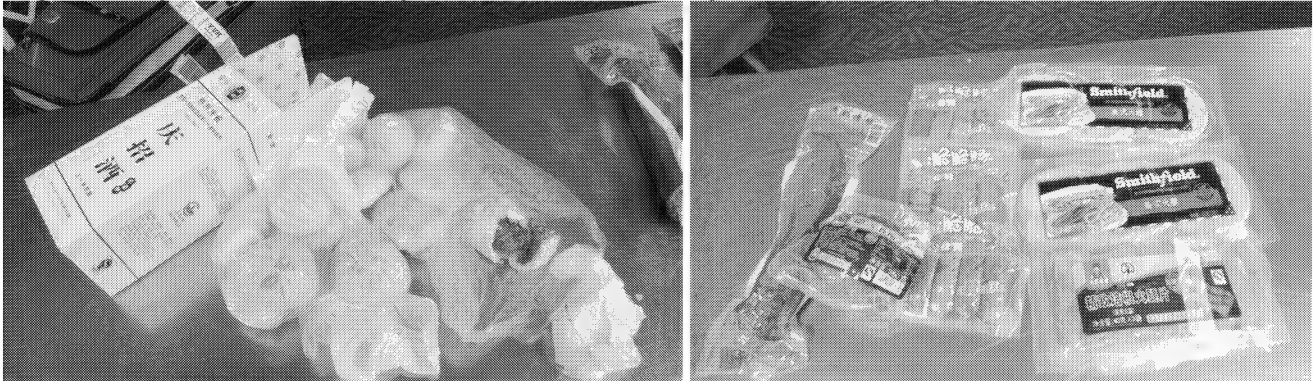
On April 13, a _____ man arrived off _____ and made a nil declaration at ABC. The DVO referred him to Triage officer **Mathew Chan** however, who in turn referred the man to Secondary. In Secondary, **Ryan Brazier** asked the man multiple times if he had any food, plant or animal products to which he continually replied no. Upon examination of the man's belongings however, Ryan found 2.61 kg of beef snacks, pork snacks and chicken feet. The man's excuse was that he was under the impression he only needed to declared large pieces of raw meat, not dried meat snacks. The man's friend paid the fine as the man had misplaced his credit card

The next day, _____ two _____ families were referred to Secondary. When **Rosana Ma** asked if they had any food, they all answered no. But when asked if they had anything to eat, such as ramen, they suddenly remembered that they did. Examination of one of the boxes yielded at least 15 packs of ramen. When asked if there was any more food, they said "*No, only kimchi.*" But, in the first box of "*only kimchi*", two kg of sausages were found. When told that Rosana would be examining every bag, they



suddenly remembered that they had more food in their suitcase. Approximately 15kg of prohibited food products were found between the two families. When asked why they did not declare the food, they gave assorted excuses: they thought processed food was okay, they didn't understand the declaration card, they didn't understand the question, etc. Two AAMPs were issued and paid.

On April 22, a woman was specifically asked at the interpreters' booth if she was importing any meat but she said no. She was referred after an alert from agriculture detector dog **Whiskey** and handler **Barry Kohli**. While examining the woman's bag, **Gord Peterson** found a



box containing 1.2 kg of pork buns and eight packages (1.6 kg) of pork. The woman's weak excuse was that the person in the seat beside her on the plane told her not to declare the meat on her E311. An NOV was issued and the woman paid the reduced penalty.

Twenty years ago...from the *VIA Intelligence Bulletin* of March/April 1996

Ja, ve are all from Luton. On April 13 we encountered four *Germans* in transit to Jamaica who were travelling on poor-quality false British passports. The four, a man, two women and a 10-year-old girl, were travelling with a U.S. resident alien who had a genuine British passport. All had arrived on JL 16 and were carrying over \$1.2 million in Deutschemarks. The lone male, was found to have served time in Germany for fraud and he also has a fraud file in PIRS. The four have since been charged with entering Canada on false documents. The phony docs were spotted by Rosemary Kinahan on the primary line.

Hired for ability, not brains. While clearing a member of the Washington Bullets basketball team at primary recently, Colin Lennie asked the player if he knew the name of the Vancouver NBA franchise. The man thought for a moment then said, "I think it's the Vancouver Torontos."

Just another day at the office

Large prohibited weapons seizure at Douglas. On April 1, a woman (Nexus member) who declared groceries only totalling \$287 was referred to secondary. A secondary

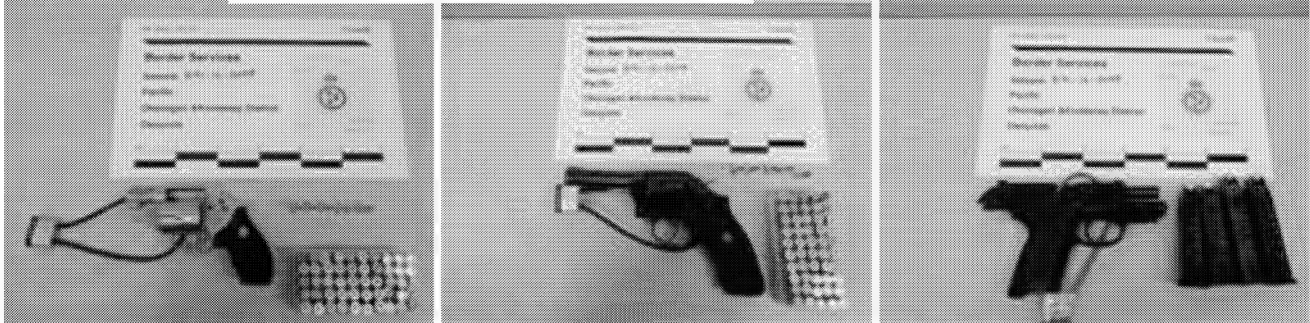


examination revealed a commercial shipment containing 12 conductive energy weapons (Tasers), twelve brass knuckles, five throwing knives, eight sets of throwing knives, six sets of smaller throwing knives, miscellaneous clothing, scarves, security badges and leather badge holders. Criminal Investigation Section is recommending charges. All goods were seized and being held pending prosecution. This seizure was made by recent VIA expat

Huge khat seizure at CEF. On April 1, officers at the Container Examination Facility in Burnaby inspected a container that was referred for examination by the NTC. The shipment was declared

and the box was opened to verify contents against the x-ray image. Goods were immediately suspected of being khat. Positive confirmation was received from the CBSA laboratory. The total weight including packaging is 3652.3kg with value of goods seized of \$1,826,150.

Prohibited weapons seizure at Osoyoos. On April 3, during examination of a commercial vehicle, BSO Tanya Figgitt discovered three undeclared firearms, five undeclared OC canisters and a switch-blade. The driver, _____ was arrested and released on recognizance



after paying the \$7000 terms of release for his truck. Criminal Investigations will be recommending charges.

Foreign fighters evading Europe security

When Ibrahim El Bakraoui blew himself up in the Brussels Airport check-in area, killing and maiming scores of travelers, it was at least the third time he had passed unimpeded through an airport terminal in recent months.

Suspected by Turkey of being a “foreign terrorist fighter” and known at home in Belgium as an ex-con wanted for parole violations, Bakraoui was still allowed to board a commercial airliner unaccompanied last summer, flying freely from Istanbul to the Netherlands and disappearing without a trace.

The ease with which he did so raises questions about how much governments know about the movements of returnees among the 5,000 home-grown jihadis who have trained and fought in places like Syria or Iraq.

Many now pose a “serious threat,” according to police agency Europol. Some, like Bakraoui, have already used their deadly skills in cities like Brussels or Paris.

Testimony from government ministers, extracts of documents and conversations with police, border and aviation officials reveal a series of security gaps, misunderstandings and procedural red-tape that surrounded the deportation last July of this future suicide bomber.

Even those who take some responsibility for missing the threat Bakraoui posed find it hard to understand why his capture raised no alarms. This was a man picked up by Turkish authorities in Gaziantep near Syria, who had done jail time in Belgium for armed robbery, including shooting at police with a Kalashnikov.



"We are talking about someone with a 10-year conviction, who spent a few years in prison, then traveled via Turkey to the Syrian border," Belgian Interior Minister Jan Jambon said, as lawmakers probed for security shortfalls after the Brussels attacks left 32 people dead. "You don't have to have worked long on terrorism to conclude from all this that there is a very high probability that we are dealing with a foreign fighter," he said.

Bakraoui may be just one case among many. Turkey has deported around 3,250 suspected "foreign terrorist fighters" since

2011 — a number that does not include those turned back before making it to Syria, according to its foreign ministry.

Turkey's government says Belgium made no extradition request for Bakraoui when it learned on June 26 that he was in Turkey, leaving him free to travel anywhere in Europe. "It was obvious that he was affiliated and involved in the conflict zones, and he was wounded. That is the reason why he was deported. And this is the information that was communicated to Belgium," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told CNN in an interview.

Bakraoui is not the only case to fall through the communications gap. In September 2014, just over a year before Bakraoui's trip to Amsterdam, three French jihadis who said they were defecting from the Islamic State group were able to buy tickets to Marseille, fly together unescorted and walk out of customs as free men, one of their lawyers, Pierre Dunac, said.

According to France's interior ministry, they were detained in Turkey for visa violations — although they were wanted men back home. Before setting out for Syria, two of them were associated with Mohamed Merah, the Islamic extremist who killed seven people in the south of France in 2012. Amid a government uproar, the three turned themselves in to French police and have been behind bars ever since, facing terrorism charges.

As for Bakraoui, what he did while in Turkey and what he would go on to do in Brussels would remain a mystery to Belgian authorities for quite some time. He disappeared off their radar last May and only popped back up on June 26, when Turkey notified Belgium that he had been picked up two weeks earlier near the Syrian border. More than two weeks would go by without a Belgian response.

Then, on the morning of July 14, Turkey's foreign ministry sent an advisory to Belgian and Dutch authorities that Bakraoui was booked on a 10:40 a.m. Pegasus Airlines flight in Istanbul, bound for Amsterdam.

The Dutch justice ministry said the deportation warning was sent to a Turkish-language electronic drop box that is normally checked twice a day. The message was prioritized as urgent, but the subject line read simply "Itinerary." It gave no reason for Bakraoui's expulsion.

A separate communique was sent to a Belgian police liaison officer in Turkey. When he requested details of the allegations against Bakraoui, he was told to make a written request, which he did the following day. A reply arrived on July 20, according to Jambon's testimony, almost a week after Bakraoui walked out of Amsterdam's Schiphol airport.

Turkish officials, including Erdogan, maintain they did their job by warning Belgium that Bakraoui could be a "foreign terrorist fighter." The Belgian government says the warning failed to include that crucial detail. "Turkey only explained to us in January 2016 exactly why this man was stopped," Belgian Justice Minister Koen Geens told lawmakers, though he conceded "we should have guessed, based on the place he had been to."

For their part, the Dutch said the Bakraoui case was not handled according to the usual protocol. There was no direct exchange between police in the two countries, or any indication of terror links in the notification.

In five other cases with Dutch nationals — all but one involving suspected travel to Syria — Turkish authorities followed up the electronic notification by contacting Dutch police. The foreign ministry said Bakraoui's case seemed to be the only slip-up of its kind.

Still, a history of violent crime and a probation violation, as was the case for Bakraoui, would not necessarily raise alarms, the ministry said. Certainly he was not flagged in either the Interpol or European databases. "It is clear the procedure is vulnerable," the Dutch justice ministry said.

Security officials say sometimes their hands are tied. It's hard to prove whether suspects have even set foot in Syria, where swathes of the country are virtually lawless, let alone establish if they have committed any crimes there.

Without proof, "we can go to the airport and say, 'We have reason to believe you have been to Syria. Would you like to talk about that?' And if he says, 'No, I've been visiting friends in Turkey,' we have to let him go," a European security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue.

The cheater's guide to getting into Europe: Border guard exposes tricks migrants try to use to sneak past checks

An EU border guard revealed the extraordinary lengths migrants are going to in their attempt to claim asylum - and said as many as one in five are lying.



In an interview, Anna Smigielska said new arrivals are coming to border posts armed with a series of tricks and lies to con officials into letting them into Europe. Many also provide fake documents to claim they are from Afghanistan, Syria or Iraq rather than their real homeland.

Miss Smigielska, whose job is to interview migrants to identify their nationality, gave an revealing insight into the challenge facing staff dealing with new arrivals in Lesbos on smuggling boats from Turkey. She told how wealthier migrants pay smugglers in Turkey extra cash for a bespoke service to prep them for questions they are expected to face at the border to determine their nationality.

Single men attach themselves to genuine refugee families and pose as brothers or husbands to try to dupe guards, while others copy answers given by refugees ahead of them in the queue. In some extraordinary cases, migrants from the Caribbean have travelled into Europe via Turkey – and then claimed to be Syrian.

Many are caught out because they are unable to name the leader of the country they claim to be from, or even recognise its currency or say which school they attended.

Miss Smigielska said around one in five migrants smuggled into Greece lie about their nationality in an apparent attempt to claim asylum in the EU. The number claiming false nationalities has increased in recent months as border controls tighten in Europe and it is far harder for those without asylum to move country.

Frontex, the European border agency, has a team screeners and forgery experts working 24 hours a day on the Greek islands to intercept those lying about their country of origin.

Assisted by an interpreter, Miss Smigielska interviews migrants at the Moira camp in Lesbos hours after they land on the island following a perilous crossing from Turkey.

She said: 'I usually start with simple questions – what city are you from, who is the president, what is the currency? Sometimes people don't even know the answers to these, or they get nervous and I suspect something is amiss. But questions must be tailored to each migrant as some have very little education and don't even know basic things about the political situation in their country.'

'The numbers vary, but if we see 100 migrants on a shift usually about 20 would claim a false nationality. When I was first in Lesbos last year people claiming false nationalities was not nearly such a big issue. But it has got far more widespread as border controls in Europe get stricter and there is less movement available for non-refugees.'

Frontex said it did not have exact figures on those who give false nationality but estimated the figure was between 10 to 15 per cent of new arrivals. The screening process is made tougher by smugglers offering a club class service to help migrants prepare for interviews with border staff.



'Sometimes they are very well informed, but there are usually details that give them away in the end,' Miss Smigielska said. 'Their accent may be wrong, and if you keep asking questions eventually there will be holes in their information and they will admit they are not from where they are claiming to be.'

'I asked one migrant who admitted lying how he knew so much about Syria despite never having been there. He showed me his phone and had emails full of details about Syria and details about the kind of things we might ask. A smuggler had provided him with it, but he had to pay extra for it.'

The sophisticated smuggler schemes means border

guards keep having to change their questions. In some cases migrants have demanded to be tested on pictures of banknotes from the country they claim to be from, as they have revised them in advance knowing it is common question by screeners to establish nationality.

Other migrants waiting to be interviewed sometimes ask a refugee family ahead of them in the queue details about the town they come from, and then give exactly the same information when they are questioned by the border guard. 'This is usually easy to detect because they might give the name of a city in Syria, but they won't know any street names or landmarks in it,' Miss Smigielska said.



Others abandon plans to give false nationality when they see how thorough the screening is. 'You might get a group of 20 Moroccans and the first five in the queue will claim to be from Syria. But after they are all found out the others don't bother trying as they know it won't work.'

'Single males also sometimes try to join Syrian families and pretend they are with them. While waiting they will offer to help a woman with young children who is travelling without her husband. In return, he asks for the woman to say that he is her brother or husband. But when you see them for questioning it's clear from the body language that they are not related or a couple.'

In one case, a man from Haiti in the Caribbean arrived claiming he was from Syria. 'We kept saying you don't speak Arabic and frankly you don't look like you are from Syria, but he kept insisting he was. Finally, we said, "you really have to say you are from somewhere other than Syria." He replied: "OK, I'm from Afghanistan". Only after a long time did he admit to being from Haiti.'

Most of those claiming false nationality name somewhere where they have a plausible chance of being believed. North Africans from Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria claim they are from Syria because they are Arabic speakers. Many Iranians and Pakistanis also claim they are from Afghanistan.

Ms Smigielska, 35, was seconded to Lesbos from the investigations unit of the Polish border control where she specialises in human trafficking. She is part of a Frontex team of 32 screeners, 19 interpreters, and 66 fingerprinting officers on Lesbos. The screeners also have six document experts to check passports, identity cards, drivers licences and other id cards for possible forgeries.

They have special scanners to screen for security features, but often can tell just by handling them that they are fake because they are printed on the wrong paper or have basic errors.

To add to the confusion, some Syrians arrive with false Syrian ID papers because they believed it is better to have some documentation even if they were false or one family member has real documents and the rest fakes, because they did not have time or were not allowed to apply for genuine papers.

Most of those arriving on the Greek islands are from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, but many also from Pakistan and from far afield as Uganda and the Dominican Republic, Miss Smigielska said.

She said: 'There are fewer people coming on this route from Turkey but I do not think it will stop them trying to try to find another route. Most of them are really determined to come here, no matter what.' (*Daily Mail*)

Indian nationals abuse Transit Without Visa policies, refuse repatriation from Mexico

Indian nationals are abusing transit without visa (TWOV) policies in Japan and Mexico so they can divert toward the United States Southwest Border, where they attempt to enter without inspection (EWI) and then claim asylum if apprehended by US Border Patrol. The Indian nationals transiting Mexico without a visa are using disruptive behavior to refuse to board their connecting flights to their final destinations or repatriation flights to the points of embarkation or origin. CBP's Joint Security Program (JSP) in Mexico has observed a significant increase in the TVOW abuse trend—noting 712 Indian travelers in CY 2016 to date—and the early signs of expansion to nationals from special interest countries.

TWOV abuse trend increasing since November 2015

In early November 2015, JSP Mexico personnel observed groups of four of five Indian nationals arriving in Mexico City (MEX) from Tokyo Narita (NRT) onboard Aeromexico Flight 57, which runs four flights per week; the passengers originated from New Delhi Indira Gandhi (DEL) onboard Japan Airlines Flight 740. Upon arrival in Mexico, the Indian passengers abscond or refuse to board connecting flights to Central America, South America, or Cuba.

In November 2015, Alien Smuggling Interdiction (ASI) noted 58 Indian nationals arriving in Mexico onboard Aeromexico Flight 57 and exploiting TVOW policies allegedly to advance their intentions of reaching the United States. Shortly after, the group sizes increased to 10 to 12 Indian nationals. On 7 March 2016, a group of 37 Indian passengers arrived in MEX onboard Aeromexico Flight 57. On 11 April 2016, 54 Indian nationals arrived in MEX onboard the same flight, representing the largest group to date; at the time of this group's arrival, INM was already holding in the transit lounge 101 other passengers that had arrived on previous days. According to ASI, Aeromexico Flight 57 has transported 712 Indian nationals from Japan to Mexico in CY 2016 to date.

Passenger analysis reveals that the Indian travelers are primarily young Sikhs who cannot explain the purpose of their trip to Central America, South America, or Cuba and have no contacts in the final destination countries. They do not check luggage, only possess small carry-on bags or backpacks, and do not carry money. At the time of boarding in NRT, the passengers possess proper travel documents that allow them to transit Japan.

Disruptive behavior, legal hurdles foil INM repatriation efforts

Indian travelers who refuse to board connecting flights out of Mexico and who are denied entry into Mexico use disruptive behavior to avoid boarding the Aeromexico return flight to NRT. In at least one case, an Indian national undressed, and the Aeromexico pilot would not allow a nude passenger to board. According to an anonymous write-in on 8 April 2016 to the US Embassy, Mexico City, Indian travelers receiving coaching from smugglers to engage in disruptive behavior to expedite their release from INM custody. (Note: the source is of unknown reliability and claims direct access to Indian nationals abusing the TWOV policy). The write-in source identifies one agent/smuggler as Kulwinder SINGH MANN (aka Mann). The source states SINGH MANN is from Theende, Hoshiarpur District, Punjab, India, currently resides in Brampton, **Canada**, travels frequently to Mexico, and faces drug-related criminal charges in India. The source provides two telephone numbers for SINGH MANN: +1-289-952-6022 and +91-856-682-5169 (primarily used to coordinate human smuggling activity via the WhatsApp messaging application).

In nearly all early cases, Mexican attorney Alvaro MENDEZ Garcia filed a withholding of removal, preventing INM from repatriating the passengers to their point of origin—the withholding of removal was prepared, filed, and approved by a Mexican judge on the same day as the passengers' arrival into Mexico. INM no longer refuses entry to Indian travelers but denies transit to defuse the legal loophole of a court-granted withholding of removal. The Indian travelers still refuse to board repatriation flights to their points of embarkation (Japan) or origin (India). Facing inadequate holding space in the Mexico City airport transit lounge, low prospects for repatriation, and the prevalence of disruptive behavior, INM releases the improperly documented travelers with a notice ordering voluntarily repatriation within 30 days. The notice serves as a safe passage document that enables Indian nationals to travel unhindered in Mexico toward the United States.

INM seeks solutions to deny boarding

INM is engaging the commercial air carrier to curb the flow of Indian nationals. INM has proposed forcing Aeromexico to clear at least 30 seats for repatriated Indians onboard the return flight from MEX to NRT—INM is attempting to provoke negative financial implications for initially boarding the passengers in Japan. INM is also asking Aeromexico to refuse boarding in Japan for the clients of travel agencies responsible for the recent uptick. According to ASI, those travel agencies include GTK Group, RB Patel, Omotenashi Tours and Travels, AJ Tours and Travels, Down Town Travels, BJ International, Travel Boutique, Universal Travel and Tours, Riya Travel and Tours, and Akbar Travels.

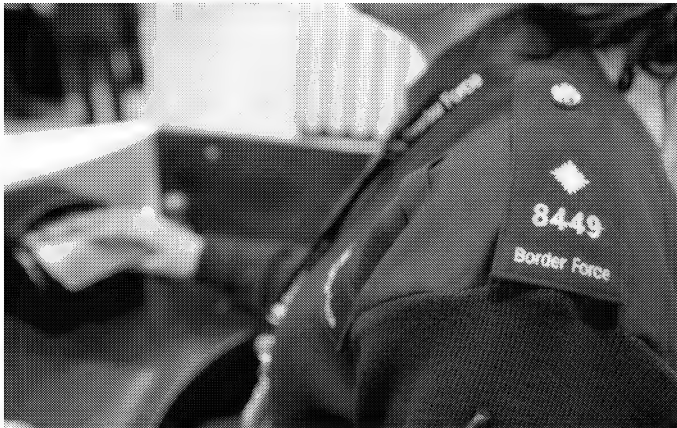
INM managers at MEX are seeking CBP's assistance to prevent the boarding of the Indian travelers in Japan. The same INM officials also are soliciting US Government action to influence Mexico to follow the United States decision in 2011 to cancel its TFOV-friendly policy.

Early signs emerging of TFOV abuse expansion

The abuse of TFOV policies in Mexico is not unique to Indian nationals or to the Aeromexico Flight 57 from NRT. JSP Mexico advises that five or six Nepalese nationals were among a group of Indian travelers arriving on Aeromexico Flight 57 on 8 March 2016. Previously, a group of two Indian nationals and four Pakistani nationals arrived in Tijuana from Shanghai onboard Aeromexico Flight 99 on 24 November 2015. Also in late November, JSP Mexico observed 20 to 25 Cuban nationals at MEX refusing to continue in transit to Quito, Ecuador, and INM advised that it has encountered up to 80 Cuban nationals in one day refusing to transit; according to JSP Mexico, Cubans no longer exploit Mexico's TFOV policies. In late March 2016, ASI advised that two Syrian nationals traveling with a group of Indians were denied entry into Mexico and initially refused to board the repatriation flight—they only agreed to board the flight after several days in INM custody.

Border Security: How the US and Britain compare

The United States deploys a much tougher regime than Britain to hunt down Islamists in their midst and screen out potential extremists who attempt to reach American soil.



Fingerprinting

At the US border, fingerprints are harvested from all foreign arrivals to ensure anyone attempting to use a false ID can be identified. Prints are also retained for cross-checking if they later show up at a crime scene.

In Britain, the national identity card scheme began gathering fingerprints of the whole population, as well as visitors, in 2008 but was scrapped by the Coalition in 2010. Just two years ago a watchdog found even illegal immigrants discovered trying to enter Britain from France were not having their fingerprints taken.

John Vine, then chief inspector of borders and immigration, said it was “surprising” fingerprints were not being taken at Calais and other cross-Channel border controls to help identify repeat offenders.

Intelligence and security

The US deploys its formidable intelligence network to keep out extremists and other undesirables, drawing on the surveillance capabilities of agencies including the CIA and the National Security Agency.

In comparison, Britain takes a more softly-softly approach. The Home Office places heavy emphasis on community-based schemes, as part of the Prevent strategy, to encourage Muslim families, imams and other community leaders to report concerns about potential extremism.

Raffaello Pantucci, of the British think-tank the Royal United Services Institute, said US intelligence agencies take a more “vigorous, pro-active approach”, including extensive surveillance, to track down potential terrorist threats.

"A lot of that is based on surveillance of online activities, which then leads to further action in the offline world," Mr Pantucci said.

Social media

The US is planning to place social media accounts under intense scrutiny when foreigners apply to visit the States.



A review was triggered after Tashfeen Malik, a Pakistani woman, killed 14 people in San Bernardino, California, last year with her US-born husband Syed Farook. Malik came to the US on a K-1, or fiancée, visa in 2014.

The day after the San Bernardino attack, it emerged that Malik had posted on Facebook pledging her and Farook's allegiance to the leader of Islamic State, and the couple had also exchanged messages about jihad and martyrdom before they were married.

Richard Burr, a Republican senator who heads the Senate Intelligence Committee, said after the attack he wanted to know how the US immigration authorities "didn't notice the radicalisation". US officials are now working on plans to gather such material in advance to prevent extremists reaching America.

Josh Earnest, the White House spokesman, has announced the Homeland Security and State departments is reviewing the process for screening people who apply for visas.

The Homeland Security Department launched three pilot programmes to carry out social media reviews into its vetting process in 2014. It is now reviewing policies on the US Citizenship and Immigration Service's ability to scrutinise social media posts on Twitter, Facebook and other sites as part of the vetting process for visa applicants. Britain is understood to make very limited use of social media in immigration applications.

Physical security

The US Customs and Border Protection Agency has 60,000 employees and describes itself as "America's front line against terrorists". On an average day it arrests 1,100 people for suspected violations of US laws, including immigration rules.

CBP agents can be heavily armed and are licensed to use "objectively reasonable force". US officials are also more likely to use racial profiling – a tactic which is largely prohibited in the UK due to anti-discrimination and human rights laws.

It is a far cry from the UK Border Force which, although run by a former Second Sea Lord Sir Charles Montgomery, has the staffing and institutional attitude of the civil service. The UK Border Force has 7,600 staff, and so is one eighth the size of its US counterpart.



Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington who, as Sir John Stevens, was Metropolitan Police Commissioner called for a new UK border force with 30,000 staff when he carried out a review in 2008.

The proposal, which was backed by David Cameron as opposition leader, suggested merging police and civilians in a new agency with sweeping police-style powers.

Professor Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly of the University of Victoria, British Columbia, who has researched the US and European approaches to border security, said: "All the infrastructure of the European approach is geared more to integration and human rights of those arriving as migrants. In North America, the US particularly, the treatment of immigrants is from the approach that they are potential criminals and potential terrorists."

Visa controls

US Congress passed a Bill in December which introduced new restrictions on its visa-free travel scheme. Anyone who has travelled to Iran, Iraq, Syria and Sudan since 2011 is now exempt from the scheme and will have to apply for a visa, including aid workers and business executives.

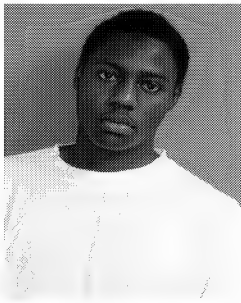
The moves will affect citizens of 23 EU countries, including the UK, who had previously been able to enter the US without a visa providing they had been cleared in advance under an electronic authorisation scheme.

The new restrictions also require travellers to the US to possess a passport with embedded security microchips.

'No-fly' lists and terror databases

America also maintains a "no fly" list of people who are to be denied the right to board US-bound flights – which contained 47,000 names according to a 2013 leak.

The US government's main record of suspected international terrorists, the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment (TIDE), holds more than one million names.



Following the foiled 2009 "underwear bomber" plot the threshold for being placed on the terror watch list was lowered. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the Nigerian behind the failed attack, had not been on a list despite his father warning a US embassy he had been radicalised.

The change meant that a single credible source became enough for someone to be placed on the watch list.

In December 2014 the Obama administration granted exemptions to broader measures against racial profiling in criminal investigations which it has been argued allowed the practice to continue at airports.

Britain operates comparable databases, principally the Warnings Index, or WI, but the numbers they contain are not known. In December it emerged that the WI breaks down twice a week on average, leading to fears Britain will be left vulnerable to terrorists and serious criminals slipping through the border unnoticed.

The WI was introduced nearly 20 years ago but was only designed to have a seven year life-span. A 2013 report found the British database was "unstable and at risk of collapsing" and contained "a great deal of out-of-date information".

Its replacement, the eBorders system, is still not fully operational and has been dubbed a "£1 billion fiasco".

Corruption prevents visa waiver to Canada for Bulgarians and Romanians

The EU badly wants to be treated as a single entity, but it keeps not happening. From the outside the Union still looks like a collection of states with different development and, therefore, with a different approach toward them. Visa policies make no exception. On this subject the EU is about to fall in its own trap of eagerness to secure a visa-free regime for all its citizens, while at the same time avoiding a deterioration of relations with key partners. In 2013, member states agreed to amend the visa policy regulation concerning third countries by introducing a reciprocal regime. The goal was to exert pressure on countries like USA, Canada, Japan, Brunei, and Australia to lift their visa requirements for EU member states like Bulgaria and Romania. The regulation offers several steps in the case of any of these third countries refuses to waive its visa requirements.

The first step is having the "discriminated against" member states file notification in case the visa regime with third countries is still active. Five member states have filed such notifications for non-reciprocal treatment on April 12, 2014. Those are Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland, and Romania. Their complaints were about Australia, Brunei, Canada, Japan, and USA. If they do not lift their visa requirements within 24 months, the Commission is obliged to adopt a delegated act, with which the non-visa regime with these countries will be suspended for 12 months. The deadline has expired. Instead of coming out with a delegated act, however, the EC published a communication which lit the fuses of MEPs from all political groups in the Civil Liberties and Justice committee.

MEPs agreed unanimously that the EC has no right to circumnavigate European legislation, the regulation is crystal clear, and visas must be required of American and Canadian nationals. The EC, however, disagrees with this position, as it becomes clear from its communication as well as from the presentation of EC's Belinda Pyke. The regulation itself also contains loopholes, which could aid in avoiding the sternest sanctions.

If a third country should not lift its visa requirements, the EC could, within six months at the latest, take action for the removal of visa-free regimes for certain categories of citizens, or it could assess the situation and report on the reasons behind it refusing to suspend the regime. Besides, the EC could participate in three-way meetings with the third country and the member state with visa requirements to find a solution, which the EC is doing, actu-

ally. The last stage comes if the third country continues to refuse to lift its visa requirements – a visa regime can be enforced for all citizens of the country in question. In order for it to come into force, the delegated act of the EC must be approved by the Council and the European Parliament.

At the adoption of the amendments in the regulation in 2013, however, 21 member states announced that the EU's institutions are obligated to assess the situation very carefully before making a proposal or a decision and take into consideration all possible negative political consequences that could arise from such a proposal or decision. And the EC did just that with its communication of 12 April, which got heavy criticism in the civil committee in the European Parliament.

The situation with the visa regime of third countries at the moment is as follows: In the case of Brunei there were restrictions for Croatians only, but on April 13th the EC received an official notice from Brunei authorities that they had made an exception for Croatian nationals and they have started issuing 90-day visa-free stay permits to Liechtenstein, which is not a member of the EU, but is a part of the European Economic space. On December 17 of last year, Japan officially notified the Romanian foreign ministry that it is extending the visa-free regime for Romanian nationals until December 31, 2018, which means that until that date there is a full visa waiver with Japan for EU citizens.



The situation with Canada and the US is the most difficult and complicated. Canada enforces visa requirements just for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals, whereas USA is blocking five countries – Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Cyprus, and Poland. The two countries' criteria differ, but are somewhat connected. The reason behind Canada keeping the visa regime for the two members that joined the EU on January 1st, 2007, is that the number of rejected visa applications continues to be much higher than the 4% threshold. Over the last three years, the average visa denial rate for the two countries is 16%. Regarding immigration law violations, where the acceptable threshold is 3% average over three years, the two countries are doing fairly well – Bulgaria is with 4.3% and Romania with 2.5%.

In the case of Canada, however, there is another problem. During the three-way meetings, Canadian representatives announced they needed more information on certain spheres like the issuance of travel documents, the integration of Roma, border management and the fight against corruption. A large portion of these problems (without the Roma integration) actually is what is preventing the two member states from entering the second in rank (after the euro area) core of the EU – the Schengen security zone. Canada has committed to make technical and expert visits over the following months in order to assess the situation at site. The aim of these visits is to build trust and make it possible for the Canadian experts to assess the particular risks, associated with waiving the visas for Romanian and Bulgarian nationals and consequently figure out how could these risks be mitigated.

Canada has made a commitment to expand its system for electronic travel authorisation to include Bulgarians and Romanians, but has not committed to any specific deadlines. If this should happen, it would make travelling to Canada easier for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals who have travelled to Canada in the last 10 years, or are holders of valid American visas.

The situation with the US is far more complicated. During the last three-way meeting on February 23rd of this year, American delegates presented the latest visa refusal statistics over the last year. 17.26% of Bulgarian applications got rejected; 5.29% for Croatia; the Cyprus refusals are the lowest – 3.53%; Polish are 6.37%; Romania has 11.16% no's. The US permissible rate is 3%. Cyprus and Croatia are closest to it at the moment.

What are the risks behind enforcing visas for the USA and Canada?

The EC warns in its communication that there are several quite serious risks, in case there is a reciprocal reply to the USA and Canada, namely reinstating the visa regime for Canadian and American nationals for 12 months. Should the EU do this, the USA has already threatened to enforce visa regimes for all 28 members of the EU. *“As a consequence, the situation would very likely not improve for the five Member States concerned and would worsen for all Member States currently enjoying visa-free travel to the US”*, says in the communication. This is no negligible problem, for the EC expects that it could work up to issuing as many as eight million visas for travel to the USA. Having in mind that the price of a visa is 160 USD, this makes close to 2.5 billion euros of additional costs for European citizens and companies.

Canada has so far refrained from threatening with reciprocal measures, but according to the EC the situation is unpredictable. One could not easily dismiss the possibility that Ottawa will react with reciprocal measures, which would mean at least 1.5 million visas for European citizens or 375 million euro extra expenses for visas. The reverse situation is even scarier, if one could judge by the EC assessment. It is expected that the EU will start to issue a minimum of 10 million visas for American nationals per year. The EC sees it as highly unlikely that member states will manage to deal with such numbers in accordance to the visa code and keeping mindful of the time restraints for issuing visas. In the case of Canada, we are talking about around two million visas. This will lead to bottlenecks and increase in processing time, which will lead to nationals from these two states to give up on travelling to the EU, and this will seriously harm tourism and the aviation industry, as well as member states' budgets, who will have to invest in additional equipment, new consular offices, increased numbers in border police, and systems to verify the issued visa.

According to EC calculations, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Greece, and the Netherlands will be affected the most. The implementation of visas for Americans and Canadians could have serious political consequences as well, because, at the moment, the EU is in the final stage of negotiations on the agreement for strategic partnership with Canada and the comprehensive economic and trade agreement, which are expected to be signed during the EU-Canada summit this autumn. The EC is concerned that the temporary reinstatement of the visa regime could have a negative effect on the finalisation of the two agreements. Also at stake is the negotiation of the special trade agreement with the USA, which already is burdened with difficult political problems in the EU itself.

Despite all the risks and the situation the MEPs were unyielding. They accused the EC of extremely poor legislation and even of a refusal to uphold the law. Liberal MEP Sophie in 't Veld (The Netherlands) even stated that if the EU had no respect for its own citizens, how could we expect respect from others. They were all unanimous now is not the time to discuss whether visas should be required of the USA and Canada or not. The question is whether we agree to accept the discrimination against European citizens, whether we agree that Bulgarians and Romanians be treated like second-hand people, said Slovenian MEP Tanja Fajon.

The EC demanded that it is within its rights to come out with a communication, rather than a delegated act and asked for a reasonable solution. If Canada should include Bulgaria and Romania in its electronic authorisation system this would really mean a 30% waiver on visas for Bulgarians and Romanians. The US is being offered the same like Canada, including an easier algorithm of issuing visas to those citizens, who have not had any visa or migration violations over the last 10 years. How will negotiations go ahead, especially with the USA, depends heavily on how will the situation change after the presidential elections there this autumn. One should not forget, however, that the EU is wary of Bulgaria and Romania who have been in a monitoring regime over the reform of the judiciary, and the fight against corruption and organised crime for almost 10 years now.

Until two years ago, the two countries had no access to the labour market of several member states. The portion of denied visas for USA and Canada to citizens of the two states is a good illustration of the problem. Should the visas for the USA and Canada disappear, it is quite possible this to cause relief for the richer EU member states, for the poorest citizens of the Union would start for the new lands. Increase migration flows to the other side of the ocean could be expected due to the further concussions in the EU over the referendum in the UK on its EU membership, the ongoing refugee situation, and the troubles in the euro area.

Parallel to the negotiations for removing visas and the fulfilment of Schengen requirements (including those additionally imposed by individual member states), the EC should work with those members who have the lowest trust. In this sense, criteria pointed out by Canada are clear enough. They overlap the recommendations, which are in the EC's reports both on the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism and those under the European semester (Roma integration, fight against unemployment and, most importantly, youth unemployment, raising the quality of education).

World's 10 most stunning airport approaches



1. Malta Airport (Malta)

Malta Airport tops the list for the first time this year. "Approached from a churning blue sea, the tiny, isolated rocky island nation suddenly appears," says PrivateFly judge Joe Sharkey.



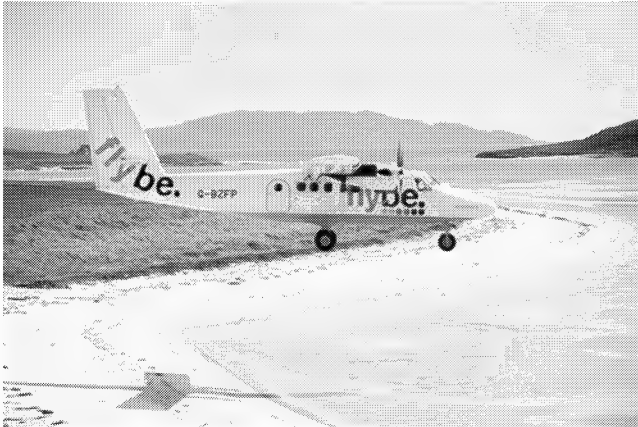
2. Nice Cote d'Azur Airport (France)

Nice Cote d'Azur Airport is located six kilometers southwest of Nice, in the Alpes-Maritimes department of France. It's the main point of arrival for passengers to the French Riviera.



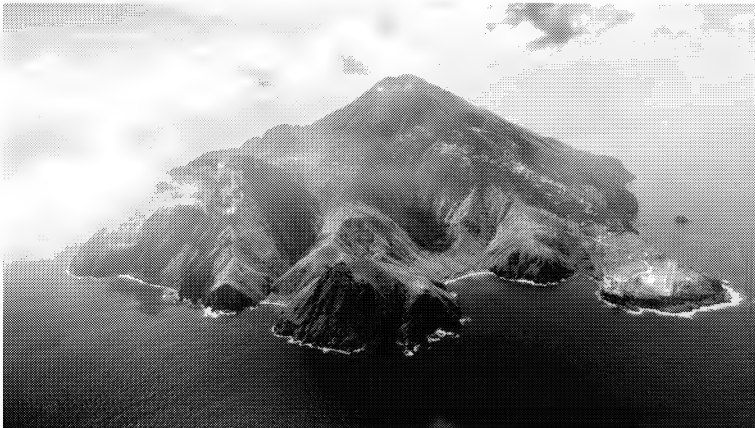
3. Queenstown Airport (New Zealand)

Located in the heart of the NZ South Island's magical landscapes of mountains, lakes and rivers, there's little surprise Queenstown Airport again ranks among the world's most scenic airport approaches.



4. Barra Airport (UK)

Barra Airport is the only airport in the world where scheduled and private charter flights land and take off from the beach. At high tide, the runways are under water.



5. Juancho e Irausquin Airport (Saba)

Juancho e Irausquin Airport is the only airport on the Caribbean island of Saba, a special municipality of the Netherlands. It's got the shortest commercial runway in the world (396 meters) and is flanked on one side by high hills, with cliffs that drop into the sea at both ends. Due to the runway length, only small aircraft and helicopters use it.



6. Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (Canada)

Commonly known as Toronto Island Airport, Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport is a small facility located on an island in Lake Ontario in Canada's largest city. It's accessed by passenger ferry and is used by regional airlines and smaller air services.



Canada Border
Services Agency

Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada



7. Donegal Airport (Ireland)

"You arrive in the Emerald Isle adjacent to one of the most beautiful beaches in the world, Carrickfinn, with a backdrop of the majestic Mount Errigal on one side and an array of craggy islands on the other." That's one PrivateFly user's enthusiastic verdict on this airport on Ireland's Atlantic coast.



8. St. Maarten Airport (Saint Martin)

At this Caribbean island airport, the approach is "so low you can almost read the sunbathers' newspapers," says PrivateFly CEO Adam Twidell.



9. Los Angeles International Airport (USA)

"The descent over the mountains takes one from the desert to the lush Pacific Coast and on a westward approach gives those on the right-hand side a bird's-eye view of downtown, the Hollywood sign and Beverly Hills," says poll judge Doug Gollan.

PROTECTION • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

Canada



10. London City Airport (UK)

Flying into London City Airport on a clear day, those in window seats get views of The Thames and London landmarks. For pilots, it's challenging. The glide path is set at stomach-churning 5.8 degrees as opposed to the usual 3-degree glide path. (CNN)

This is why China's airports are a nightmare

Danny Armstrong is used to dealing with flight delays and cancellations.

As general manager of China Banking at National Australia Bank, he travels for business around China a couple of times a month. At the mercy of the nation's notoriously unpredictable flight system, Armstrong has had to become adept at contingency planning: booking on a certain carrier he believes has better on-time performance and switching to the high-speed train during times of the year when delays are common.

Armstrong's frustrations are common among business travellers in China as air travel has become increasingly chaotic and unreliable in recent years due to the country's chronically — and well-chronicled — overcrowded skies. China's airports are the worst in the world when it comes to punctuality. Airport statistics website FlightStats last year ranked 188 midsized and large airports around the world according to how many flights departed on time.

Of the bottom 20, 14 of them were in China, Hong Kong or Taiwan — all of which had on-time ratings of less than 60%. The least punctual Chinese airport was Hangzhou's at an on-time rating of 41%, second only to Jakarta globally. Shanghai's Pudong Airport (52%), Hong Kong (59%) and Beijing (64%) fared only marginally better. By comparison, Tokyo's busiest airport, Haneda, which handles more flights annually than Shanghai-Pudong, had an on-time rating of 92% last year, among the best in the world.

The rankings were even worse in 2014. Just more than a third of flights took off on time at the four biggest airports in the Yangtze Delta region (Shanghai-Pudong, Shanghai-Hongqiao, Hangzhou and Nanjing) — making them the most delayed in the world by far.

Aviation experts agree that one of the main problems in China is the fact the country's airspace is largely controlled by the military, leaving little room for civilian aircraft even as the domestic airline industry booms. Less than 30% of China's airspace can be used by commercial airlines, compared to about 80% of the airspace in the United States.

Not only does this create a daily bottleneck for passenger planes, it can occasionally result in mass flight cancellations when the military wants to conduct drills, such as in the summer of 2014 when 12 airports, including the two in Shanghai, were ordered to reduce traffic by 25% for a three-week period for military training.

And yet the airline industry continues to grow in China, with airlines buying more planes, selling more tickets and putting considerably more strain on an already beleaguered system. Chinese airlines were estimated to have carried 440 million passengers last year, an 11% increase over the year before. According to the International Air

Transport Association, they're expected to add another 758 million new passengers over the next two decades, bringing the total number of annual passengers to 1.2 billion by 2034.

China is also aggressively building more airports and striving to improve the efficiency of its existing facilities by increasing the number of flights that can safely land and take off every hour, said Steven Brown, the chief operating officer of the Washington-based National Business Aviation Association, who has flown in China for 30 years.

To achieve that, he said, the country is adopting the best practices in the aviation industry, from training crews to be more efficient as they manoeuvre the planes to improving its air-traffic control capabilities and the lighting on the runways. For companies that rely heavily on air travel to do business in China, all these improvements can't happen fast enough. Lost productivity from chronic flight delays is perhaps the biggest complaint at the moment.

The other cost to companies is in lost business or frayed relationships due to missed meetings. Armstrong said he's been forced to make excuses in the past when a flight's been cancelled or delayed, which he calls "dreadful," particularly when he's meeting with banking regulators in Beijing.

It's one thing if delays are a rare occurrence, but in China, every business traveller has a nightmarish story to tell. Peter Arkell, managing director for the Australian HR consulting firm Carrington Day, said he once had a 19:00 flight out of Shanghai that was delayed more than five hours due to "air-traffic control" issues, a frustratingly vague explanation often provided by airlines for delays. He boarded after midnight and the plane then sat on the tarmac for another three hours before the flight was cancelled without explanation and everyone was offloaded, bleary-eyed, and sent to a hotel. The plane finally took off at midday the next day.

To reduce the stress of travel, many businesspeople have stopped flying altogether on short routes and rely on the high-speed train network, which is punctual, comfortable and expanding at a remarkable clip. The Shanghai-Beijing route, for instance, takes about five hours, with trains departing every 10-to-30 minutes throughout the day.

But as frustrating as air travel in China, it's not going to stand in the way of companies continuing to invest in the country — at least not yet. "I think a lot of people just factor it in," Chisnall said, "and accept it as one of those costs of doing business here." (BBC Capital)

CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND AGRICULTURE AROUND THE WORLD

Australia – Woman charged with attempting to import 8kg of cocaine

A 23-year-old Brazilian national is due to appear before Sydney Central Local Court charged with importing approximately eight kilograms of cocaine through Sydney Airport.



Suellen Dos Santos Nascimento, who arrived at Sydney International Airport on a flight from Chile on 9 April, was targeted by Australian Border Force officers for a baggage examination with x-ray images revealing inconsistencies. ABF officers removed the suitcase lining, finding three packages containing a white powder. Initial testing of the substance was positive for cocaine.

The matter was referred to the Australian Federal Police, who arrested Nascimento and charged her with importing a commercial quantity of a border controlled drug, namely cocaine, contrary to subsection 307.1 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995*.

Australia – Australian Border Force’s military-style uniforms made overseas

The military-style uniforms worn by Australian Border Force officials tasked with securing our borders were made almost entirely in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and China.



The \$6.3 million spent by the department on uniforms, name badges and helmets was a fraction of the \$10 million spent creating the Australian Border Force, including signs and insignia at airports and detention centres. The department of Immigration and Border Protection has also confirmed it spent \$15,950 on hand-woven flags carrying the Australian Border Force logo, with officials insisting these were Australian made.

The rebranding has led some to accuse the department of militarising its workforce; a claim that secretary Michael Pezzullo has denied several times. Close to 20 per cent of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection’s senior executive ranks are now uniformed, with the majority working within the Australian Border Force.

Labor Senator Kim Carr, who asked about the uniforms at a senate estimates hearing earlier this year, said further questions need to be asked about the procurement process.

“I find it difficult to believe that the Australian textile industry does not have the capability to make uniforms for the Australian Border Force,” he said. “This is one area where you have to look at whole of life costing. We have seen this in previous military procurements where they go for the cheapest option rather than quality.”

A spokeswoman for the department said the procurement sought to achieve “value for money” and complied with Australian regulations. “All Australian Border Force uniforms are sourced through Australian suppliers, with the majority of components manufactured in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and China,” she said. “The majority of the new DIBP uniform components are made overseas but are sourced through Australian companies.”

When asked if the uniforms were Australian-made during senate estimates, Border Force commissioner Roman Quaadvlieg said “I think I saw a label, actually. They may have been, but I will take that on notice”.

Out of the 154 senior executives within the department, 30 are now designated as uniformed officers including commissioner Quaadvlieg. Mr Carr also raised concerns about a perceived militarisation of the department and said it was important to “maintain perspective”.

Several thousand of Border Force staff have been trained to use firearms since the force was launched in mid-2015. Earlier this year, the department approached the market for conductive energy weapons, otherwise known as stun guns or Tasers.

A spokeswoman for the department said stun guns were not currently used by staff and there was no immediate plan to acquire them. “The department continually explores options to improve the personal defence equipment carried by some Australian Border Force officers to reduce the reliance on lethal forms of self-defence,” she said.

Australia – Johnny Depp and Amber Heard film bizarre apology video for Australian court case over terrier smuggling

Amber Heard, Johnny Depp’s wife, has been given a one-month good behaviour bond and no conviction in Australia after pleading guilty to a charge of falsifying documents while bringing her two pet Yorkshire terriers into the country aboard a private jet last year.

Clutching Depp’s hand as she stood to hear the verdict, Heard appeared relieved as a court in the state of Queensland found she had been genuinely remorseful and ruled that no criminal conviction should be recorded. “She is clearly a good person,” the magistrate said. “I accept that she did not set out to deliberately deceive the Australian authorities.”

Describing the incident as a “terrible mistake”, Heard blamed her and Depp’s personal assistants for a failure to properly prepare the paperwork to ensure that the terriers – named Pistol and Boo – could be brought to Australia. “I never had any intent to conceal the fact that the dogs were in Australia at any time,” she said in an affidavit.

The 29-year-old actress was accused of smuggling the dogs into the country during a visit last May with Depp, 52, to Queensland, where he was filming the latest *Pirates of the Caribbean* film.



To demonstrate their contrition, the celebrity couple produced a somewhat unusual video – aired in court – in which they expressed regret and urged people to comply with Australia’s notoriously strict quarantine rules.

In a somewhat muted performance, Depp tells the camera: “If you disrespect Australian law, they will tell you firmly... Declare everything when you enter Australia.” Heard states: “I am truly sorry that Pistol and Boo were not declared. Protecting Australia is important.”

Heard said in an affidavit to the court that she had previously travelled to Britain with the dogs and had refused to take them to her wedding in the Bahamas last February because approvals had not been obtained. “I have travelled with Boo on many occasions,” she said in the affidavit. “My understanding was that I was not to declare the dog on the arrival card [because] it was on other documentation.”

The couple’s video - and the detailed discussion of Boo’s and Pistol’s travelling habits - capped off one of the more unusual cases in Australian legal history.

It began with the revelation – which emerged via a local dog groomer – that Heard’s pets had entered Queensland unlawfully and were staying at their rented mansion on the Gold Coast. This prompted Barnaby Joyce, an outspoken MP and now Australia’s deputy prime minister, to warn that the dogs would be killed within 72 hours if they did not “bugger off” and leave the country.

The couple and the dogs quickly fled for California but authorities pressed ahead with charges.

Almost a year passed before the quiet arrival of a Gulfstream V jet at an airport in the Gold Coast on April 16 indicated that Heard intended to plead her case in person.

Twenty-four hours later, they appeared in appropriately sombre black suits at Southport Magistrate’s Court, enduring the media scrum and the occasional hysterical cries of local defendants, who begged Depp for a quick autograph while awaiting their own fates; (he tried to oblige before his security chaperone intervened).

Inside the court, Heard occasionally nudged her husband as he began to nod off during final summations. She remained alert throughout, even as her lawyers ran through the intricacies of Australian quarantine law and stressed to the court that her offence was far less severe than a recent case in which a woman was caught smuggling a monkey and a turtle from South America.

Jeremy Kirk, SC, Heard’s barrister, told the court that the actress believed approvals had been given and that she was not required to declare the dogs on her passenger arrival card. He said the dogs had specifically been vaccinated ahead of their travel to Australia but a mix-up involving the couple’s assistants – including an assistant of hers who had recently been effectively sacked – resulted in a failure to obtain Australian approvals.

“She expresses deep regret for having done the wrong thing by ticking the no box [on her arrival card],” he said. “Ms Heard never sought special treatment. She has never sought to avoid Australian law and justice. She has come here to answer to Australian law.”

Noting that “no person is above the law”, the magistrate said Heard appeared to be truly remorseful and her video would be useful in sending a message of deterrent to future travellers to Australia. “[The video] is of far more benefit to this country than anything I may do with regard to recording a conviction against Ms Heard,” she said.

Heard escaped a blot on her criminal record and was placed on a \$AUS1,000 good behaviour bond, which she must pay if she commits an offence within the next month. (*The Telegraph*)

Australia – Man charged with importing cocaine internally

A 52-year-old Finnish man is scheduled to appear in Brisbane Magistrates Court charged with attempting to import approximately 224 grams of cocaine inside his body.

On 18 April, the man was targeted by Australian Border Force officers upon his arrival at Brisbane International Airport. After questioning the man and examining his bags, the ABF officers determined that he was not a genuine tourist and cancelled his visa.

The man was suspected of concealing drugs internally and the matter was referred to the Australian Federal Police. He later passed 26 pellets containing cocaine.

Australia – Couple charged with importing 6kg of cocaine

A 30-year-old Brazilian man and a 24-year-old Brazilian woman appeared in Sydney Central Local Court 22 April 2016 charged with importing approximately six kilograms of cocaine in their suitcases.

On 21 April 2016, the man and woman were selected for a baggage examination by Australian Border Force officers upon their arrival at Sydney International Airport on a flight from Chile.

During the examination, the ABF officers located approximately three kilograms of cocaine concealed in the lining of each passenger's suitcase and referred the matter to the Australian Federal Police.

Australia – Border Force airport strikes banned for three months

Border Force staff will be banned from going on strike at airports for three months after the industrial umpire found it "more than likely" national security weaknesses had been "exploited" by criminals or terrorists as result of recent union-led action.



In a judgment firmly rejecting union claims that strikes at nine international airports in recent months posed no threat to Australian borders, the Fair Work Commission found industrial action had "deliberately" reduced Border Force's "mitigation capacity". The Border Force risk level had "escalated" and "deteriorated" as a result of the protracted strikes, commissioner Nicholas Wilson said in his decision, published April 27.

Border Force lodged an urgent application to the commission to halt the industrial action early in

April, ahead of further action planned by the Community and Public Sector Union throughout the school holidays. The strikes had forced Border Force to make an "operational decision" between "smooth passenger flows" and "proper ... scrutiny" of arriving and departing passengers, Mr Wilson said.

"If an emphasis is given to facilitating passenger flows, (Border Force) risks missing something that should be given greater scrutiny, the consequences of which may well range from serious to catastrophic," he said. In hearings in Melbourne, the commission was told Border Force would train more staff during the three-month period.

The commission found the industrial action "was threatening and would continue to endanger the life, personal safety or health or welfare of the population or part of it". (*The Australian*)

Austria – Work starts on border controls with Italy

Austrian police say that work on creating border controls at the main crossing to Italy is starting with construction



scheduled to be completed by the end of May.

Crews began pouring concrete April 12 for the foundations of a registration hall, barriers and other structures at the Brenner pass in response to an anticipated flow of migrants trying to enter Austria after arriving in Italy over the Mediterranean.

Austrian officials say migrants trying to reach prosperous EU countries will likely turn to that route, now that there is no free passage from Turkey into Greece and on through the West Balkans. (*The News*)

Austria – Austria re-imposes controls on its border with Hungary

Austria has re-imposed controls on its border with Hungary, with police checking vehicles at the main regular



crossings and soldiers patrolling other stretches of the border.

Police say the controls that began April 25 are meant to ensure that no one crosses illegally and to prevent the smuggling of migrants into Austria and other EU nations. They have reported more such smuggling attempts into Austria since countries along the Balkan migration route closed their borders to migrants earlier this year.

Austrian police did not say how long the new border controls would remain.

Bangladesh – 1 held with 3.5kg gold at Dhaka airport

A person has been held with 160 gold strips weighing 3.5kg at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. Md Habibur Rahman was detained after he arrived at the airport by a flight of Emirates Airlines from Dubai on April 25.

Readul Islam, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Customs House, said: "The gold strips were kept inside a weighing machine and toys." He said the detainee will soon be handed over to airport police. (*Dhaka Tribune*)

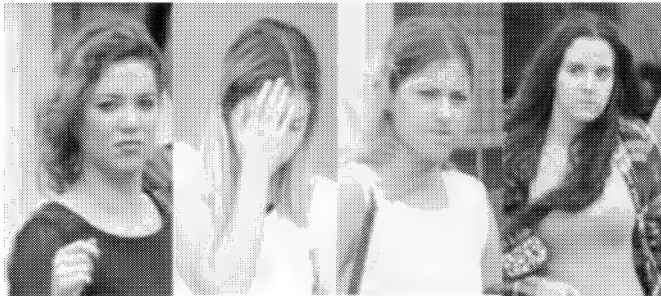
Barbados – Canadian women plead guilty to smuggling drugs to Barbados, pay thousands to avoid jail time

Three **Canadian** women who pleaded guilty to multiple drug charges in Barbados have returned home after paying tens of thousands in dollars in fines to avoid jail terms. A fourth woman, who was part of the same group and also pleaded guilty to the same charges, was expected to return to Canada on April 8 after paying her own fine in a case police said might signal a new trend.



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Charlette Blackman, 35, Natalie Linton, 24, Paige Amber Clark, 20 and Emma Jacqueline Young, 17, flew into Barbados on March 29, a spokesman with the Royal Barbados Police said. The four were taken into custody at the airport after customs officials found a significant amount of marijuana hidden in boxes in their luggage. Police wouldn't say what had prompted customs officials to search the women.

The four women's arrests came just days after

another Canadian woman, 24-year-old student Brittany Kotler, was arrested after being found with just under six kilograms of marijuana in her luggage, police said. Kotler also pleaded guilty to several drug-related charges but remains in custody.

While the cases are separate, Barbados police are concerned they might signal a troubling pattern. "This is unusual," said Asst. Supt. David Welch. "We do get one or two during the year but this seems to be a trend where we have five Canadian nationals — all women — attempting to smuggle drugs into our country."

In the case of the four women arrested, each had different amounts of marijuana in their luggage — Blackman had 15 kg of the drug, Linton had 19 kg, Clark had nearly 12 kg and Young had 20 kg in her luggage, Welch said.



Local media footage showed the women shielding their faces from cameras as they were escorted by authorities. Police said Canadian consular officials had been contacted after their arrests.

All four were each charged with illegal possession of cannabis, illegal possession with intent to supply cannabis, trafficking in cannabis and illegal importation of cannabis, he said. The women all pleaded guilty to their charges in court in exchange for avoiding two-year jail terms, Welch said. They were all ordered to pay fines of varying amounts before they could be released.

Blackman was ordered to pay nearly \$50,000, while Linton and the 17-year-old were fined \$52,500, he said. All three had paid their fines by April 7 and had headed home, a spokesman with the country's District B Magistrates court said. Clark was to pay her fine April 7 and was to return to Canada by April 8, the spokesman said.

Barbados – Surinamese woman caught in Barbados trying to smuggle drugs hidden in private parts

A 32-year-old Surinamese woman is facing court in Barbados after being caught trying to smuggle cannabis and cocaine into the island – some of which he hid in her private parts.

Nadhira Gautamie Echteld has been slapped with eight charges – possession of two kilos of cannabis, possession of one kilo of cocaine, possession of cannabis with intent to supply, possession of cocaine with intent to supply, trafficking cannabis, trafficking cocaine, importation of cannabis and importation of cocaine.

She arrived at the Grantley Adams International Airport on April 24, and when her luggage was searched by Customs officers, two packages of cannabis were found. Echteld was taken to the hospital where a package of cocaine was retrieved from her vagina. She subsequently passed 22 packages of cocaine that she had ingested.

The Surinamese woman appeared in court April 26 and was remanded to prison.

Barbados – LIAT flight attendant faces cocaine, cannabis charges in Barbados

A LIAT flight attendant who police said had five kilos of cocaine in her handbag when she arrived in Barbados and a small quantity of cannabis in the apartment where she was staying, has been slapped with five charges. Deann Pat Portia Plummer, 33, will appear in court April 29.

Police say the St. Lucian national arrived at the Grantley Adams International Airport on April 26 and was interviewed by Drug Squad personnel. She was referred to Customs and a search uncovered the five kilogrammes (11 pounds) of cocaine in her bag. A search warrant was subsequently executed at her apartment and 1.3 grammes of cannabis found.

Plummer will answer charges of possession, intent to supply, trafficking and importation of cocaine, and possession of cannabis.

Barbados – Jamaican national held on drugs charges

Jamaican national Donovan Ashban Small is due to appear in the District Ba Magistrates Court on four drugs charges.

Small, 29, was interviewed by Drug Squad personnel and referred to Customs when he arrived at the Grantley Adams International Airport on April 27. A search of his luggage by Customs personnel revealed 10 pounds of cannabis.

He is charged with possession of cannabis, possession with intent to supply cannabis, trafficking cannabis and importation of cannabis. (*Barbados Today*)

Bulgaria – Bulgaria Customs seize Ethiopian qat at Sofia Airport

Deliveries with a total weight of 28 kg containing qat, a psychoactive plant, have been confiscated by Bulgarian



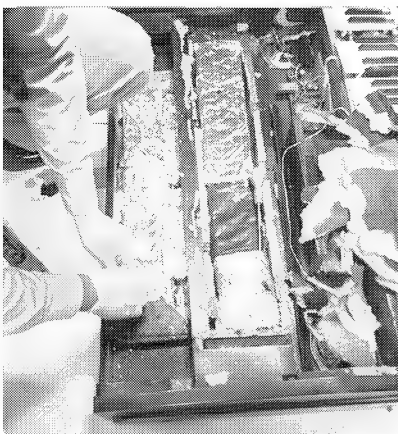
customs officers, the customs agency said. The entire quantity, worth around BGN 0.9 M (EUR 0.45 M), was confiscated at Sofia airport. Its final destinations were Belgium and the Netherlands. Meanwhile in the area of Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second-largest city, a Bulgarian national was detained in relation to the affair.

Deliveries of qat, usually declared as tea coming from Kenya or Ethiopia, are "a new development" for Bulgaria, the agency says in its 2015 report, adding that as many as 36 attempts to smuggle qat leaves into the country have been thwarted by authorities.

Cambodia – Vietnamese drug smuggler plays his final tune

An elderly Vietnamese national was convicted by the Siem Reap Provincial Court and sentenced to 28 years in prison for smuggling almost six kilograms of cocaine from Brazil to Cambodia stashed in a piano last year.

Presiding judge Duch Soksarin said accused 60-year-old Le Van Dang was charged by the provincial prosecutor with "drug transporting" under article 40 of the Cambodian Law on Drug Control and fined 60 million riel (about \$15,000), along with his jail sentence. "The court has sentenced him to 28 years in prison and a fine of 60 million riel," he said.



Colonel Oum Amara, Chief of the Anti-Drug Unit, said Mr. Dang traveled from Ecuador to Siem Reap via Brazil, Qatar and Kuala Lumpur, arriving at Siem Reap International Airport on April 15 last year. He stashed the drugs inside a piano he was transporting.

He said customs officials discovered the drug when the piano arrived the next day, before anti-drug police made their arrest, seizing 5.85 kilos of cocaine.

"He was arrested at Siem Reap International Airport on April 16 after he had come to collect his piano," he said.

Mr. Dang admitted to police that he had previously been convicted by a Vietnamese court, which sentenced him to 13 years in prison for smuggling three grams of heroin across the Cambodian border to Ho Chi Minh City, and was released from prison in Vietnam in 2013. (*Khmer Times*)

an adult or child with ASD and makes them better able to interact with them and react to different possible behaviours. This year, approximately 300 people benefited from this activity.

Canada – Border security: hundreds detained in 1st month of new screening measures

Border agents are identifying and detaining more people with outstanding arrest warrants at Canadian border crossings after making changes to the way travellers are checked for security risks.

Agents who work on the front lines of Canada's borders were given access to police information late last year, after an investigation revealed they couldn't screen travellers against Canadian police records, such as outstanding warrants.



New numbers show that in the first month after the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) database was introduced at primary inspection points, it flagged 1,800 cases in which travellers had outstanding warrants against them.

While some warrants were for minor infractions, such as outstanding fines, a quarter of the referrals were related to criminal offences and resulted in "further action," according to the CBSA. In some cases, they were people who had eluded police for some time.

In March, police records contained in the CPIC database helped border agents at Toronto Pearson International Airport identify a suspect in a fatal arson in Woodstock, Ont. Jeyakumar Shanmuganathan, 43, had fled Canada in 2011, but when he tried to re-enter the country after a flight from Sri Lanka on March 2, he was flagged and arrested.

At the same Toronto airport in March, a woman travelling from Jamaica was flagged by CPIC while attempting to enter Canada. Police said she had failed to appear for fraud charges in Barrie, Ont., in 1996, and avoided authorities for 20 years. Similarly, border agents at a New Brunswick border crossing in January were able to identify and arrest a suspect in a series of sexual assaults dating back to the 1980s.

Agents who do the primary inspection of travellers at Canadian borders have now had access to the CPIC database since November 2015. The change came after a man charged with sexual assault in Canada was able to re-enter the country without being arrested at the border.

A further investigation revealed that although U.S. border agents used Canada's national police database to help screen all travellers into that country, agents at primary inspection points in Canada did not have access to it.

Canadian agents working the front lines of border checkpoints could access information about people being sought by immigration authorities, or those with lost, stolen or fraudulent passports. But until last year, other databases, such as CPIC, were only made available to agents at a secondary screening where more thorough checks are conducted.

That meant that a person coming into Canada had to first be deemed suspicious by a front-line border agent in order to get fully screened against Canadian police warrants by another agent at a secondary checkpoint. The idea was to save time at the border.

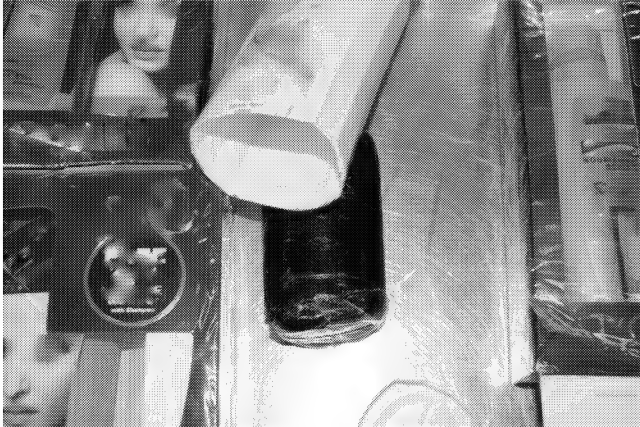
After lobbying the government to make the CPIC tool available at all levels of border inspection, the head of the union representing Canada's border agents says his members are pleased with the changes.

Jean-Pierre Fortin, of the Customs and Immigration Union, said the old system meant that in some cases, front-line agents "didn't have a clue" about the identities of the people they were letting into the country. Now, with full CPIC access, he said, border agents are "way more efficient" in ensuring "that if there's an outstanding warrant, immediately, there's action that's being taken." (CBC News)

Canada – CBSA officers find opium at Hamilton Airport

The Canada Border Services Agency seized 15 kg of opium at the John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport.

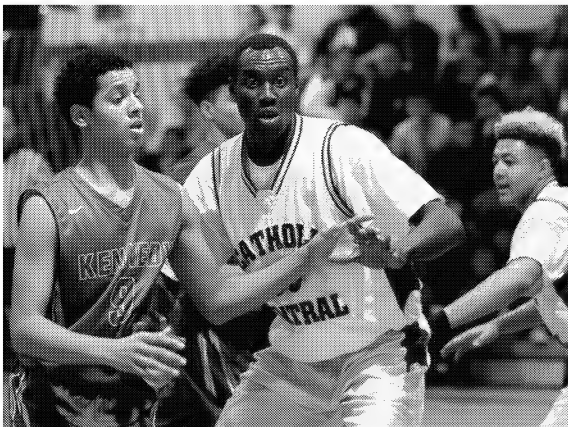
On April 15 CBSA officers were inspecting a shipment of "toiletries" from India. An x-ray done on one of the bottles showed something unexpected. The officers opened the bottle and found it filled with a brown tar-like substance with an earthy odour. Drug testing was done and the substance was positive for opium.



In total, 15 bottles were found to contain opium. The opium was turned over to York Regional Police. (CHCH)

Canada – Man posing as Windsor teen who became basketball star caught by fingerprints at border

Fingerprints at the U.S. border were the downfall of a 29-year-old South Sudanese man who entered Canada illegally and spent months posing as a Windsor high school student.



Jonathan Nicola, previously believed to be 17, was flagged when he tried to go to Michigan on April 15 because he'd done it once before. But the first time he tried, according to the CBSA, he told authorities he was born in 1986.

Authorities are keeping Nicola, who turns 30 on Nov. 1, in jail until his next hearing with the Immigration Refugee Board because they consider him a flight risk. CBSA arrested Nicola after he applied for a U.S. visitor's visa and was denied.

The IRB said Nicola, from South Sudan, arrived through Toronto's Pearson International Airport on Nov. 23, 2015. He was issued a student authorization to study in Windsor until Jan. 31, 2017. Nicola's passport indicated he was born Nov. 25, 1998, as did his application for a student visa.

After coming to Windsor with that visa, he has been attending Catholic Central High School as a 17-year-old Grade 11 student. Nicola, at six-foot-nine and 202 pounds with a shoe size of 16, also became a well-known basketball player on the senior boys' basketball team.

But on April 15, according to the Immigration and Refugee Board, Nicola applied for a U.S. visitor visa as a 17-year-old born on Nov. 25, 1998. That's when authorities determined he was actually born on Nov. 1, 1986.

The CBSA said that when Nicola tried to get into the U.S. on a visitor visa, he was flagged and fingerprinted. The fingerprint determined Nicola had previously applied for entry to the U.S. using Nov. 1, 1986 as his birthdate.

Canada – iPhone receipt led border agent to voyeuristic Walmart videos

It was an iPhone digital shopping receipt that led to the arrest of a Canada resident recently for taking secret video recordings of women in a Walmart changing room, according to court documents.

Michael J. Hull, 48, of 398 Foster Brook Way, Nepean, Ontario was charged with two felony counts of second-degree unlawful surveillance and one count of possessing a sexual performance of a child. He was arraigned in Ogdensburg City Court and released in lieu of \$1,000 bail.

According to a statement by a Canadian border services agent, three separate recordings of women changing clothes at the Ogdensburg Walmart store were discovered after Mr. Hull gave a border officer his iPhone so the

agent could check a digital receipt for recently purchased goods. Mr. Hull also provided the border officer with his iPhone password so that the agent could verify the receipt against purchased goods in his car.

"Upon examining his phone for further receipts, he (the Canadian customs officer) discovered three short videos in the phones application," according to a court document from Canadian border officials.

The first video was approximately two minutes long and showed what officials described as an "older Caucasian woman in her underwear" as she was being video recorded from under the changing room stall. At the end of the video, Mr. Hull then turns the iPhone camera on himself for a video selfie.

He then repeated the same videos and selfies with two different women in the changing booth, according to Canadian officials. A time stamp on the videos corresponded with the time that Mr. Hull was shopping at Walmart.

A joint investigation by Ogdensburg City Police, Walmart security officials and Canadian authorities resulted in Mr. Hull's arrest and subsequent arraignment in City Court.

City police said they were first notified on Feb. 22 when contacted by the Ontario Provincial Police in regard to a potential unlawful surveillance case that may have occurred in the city, Detective David M. Layng said in a news release April 19. Mr. Layng said that during the unlawful-surveillance investigation, Hull was found to have also been in possession of pornographic images of a child under the age of 16. (*Watertown Daily Times*)

Canada – Officers raise CBSA's profile at Law Day Alberta

BSOs in both central and southern Alberta participated in the 34th annual Law Day, organized by The Canadian Bar Association to educate Canadians about all levels of the legal system. As Canada's second-largest law enforcement agency, the CBSA held a prominent profile at this year's events in Calgary and Lethbridge.



Four Calgary International Airport officers, including Detector Dog Handler Laura Hiscott and Rusty, represented at the Calgary Courts Centre event on April 16. Laura says over the past few years, the number of exhibitors, attendees, and reporters on-site has jumped significantly. Rusty doesn't seem to mind.

"He adores the attention of the kids and has been more patient the last two years about sitting calmly instead of jumping up to give kisses," says Laura, "[which is] something he would love to do while searching sometimes at work, but isn't allowed to."

Detector Dog Handler Gwen Pease and Kodiak made their debut at Law Day this year, and Gwen says it was a great experience to interact with the public outside of the PIL booth.

"The questions were excellent – it gave us an opportunity to have great conversations with the public of all ages," she says, "not only on the types of items that are

regulated, prohibited, or restricted, but some of the reasoning that often gets missed on why the items are regulated, prohibited, or restricted."

BSO Shane Paul, who started with the CBSA's legacy organization in 2000, says he noticed that public awareness of the CBSA job – beyond scanning passports – seems to be on the rise. He credits this largely to the *Border Security: Canada's Front Line* television show.



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"Talking to people at Law Day about the complexities of our work, for example, preparing for admissibility hearings, our ability to investigate and prosecute infractions, and our expanded roles under the *Criminal Code*, has created an appreciation of our work in the public," says Shane. "I had many people at Law Day who actually thanked me for the work we do."

BSO James Brinnen, a recent ODP graduate, has been working at YYC for the past four months. Although there were a lot of questions about goods and immigration, James also noted that he was asked several questions about recruitment.

"It was great getting to answer questions about recruitment and the Agency in general," he says. "People seemed to be really interested in the Agency itself and in joining. Working here has been a great experience for me, and I was glad to share about my experience with others."

Supt. Darryl Anderson and BSO Michael Laycock of the Del Bonita POE joined Detector Dog Handler Kyle Reindl and Comet at the Lethbridge Court House for another local event on April 23. Kyle and Comet's two drug search demonstrations were the highlight of the day, with several hundred people in attendance. Comet displayed high energy and strong focus in locating the drugs quickly, and was not at all distracted by the crowd.



"Everyone was laughing and clapping, and she wasn't paying attention," says Kyle. "She was [just] staring at her ball."

"It was fun, it was definitely a positive environment, and worthwhile for the CBSA to go," says Michael. "I typically do a lot of recruiting, [but] this was more of a community relations thing with lots of families."

This was the first time southern Alberta participated in Law Day, and Michael says they plan on making the CBSA display even bigger and better next year by bringing the Buddy the Bear mascot along, as well as a

portable X-ray machine. Kyle and Comet were also featured prominently in the print edition of *Lethbridge Herald*.

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Canada – Three arrested at Abbotsford border crossing

The Abbotsford-Huntingdon border crossing was closed April 21, after a routine search found what appeared to be an explosive device in a vehicle. Three people were taken into custody.

Abbotsford Staff Sgt. Rick Stewart posted a photo of what looked like a grenade April 21 on Twitter (see below). "Cutting through BC? Don't have grenade in plain view," Stewart wrote. "Closed border & called out EDU (Explosive Disposal Unit). No entry for u." Stewart tagged the photo #inert.

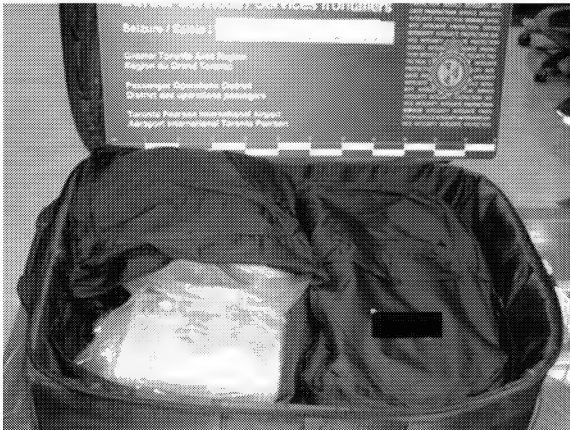
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Limited traffic was allowed to resume in both directions shortly after the shutdown. (*Langley Times*)

Canada – Flight from Dominican Republic turns up large amount of cocaine at Pearson Airport



The RCMP are looking for a GTA drug trafficker after a flight from the Dominican Republic that landed at Pearson International Airport turned up more than 10 kilograms of cocaine.

The CBSA say customs officers were monitoring the offload of luggage on a flight from the Dominican Republic April 23 and noticed an unclaimed suitcase with a “seemingly recycled airline tag.”

The suitcase was examined by officers and found to contain two backpacks with multiple brick-shaped bundles, the CBSA said. The bundles were subsequently tested and proved positive for the drug, which was turned over to the RCMP. (*The Mississauga News*)

Canada – Dogs rescued from illegal meat trade in Asia arrive in B.C.

Five dogs rescued from the illegal meat trade in Asia are being given a new leash on life in British Columbia. The animals, which were brought here by Vancouver-based animal rescue group Leading Each Animal Safely Home, or LEASH, arrived at Vancouver International Airport April 23.



LEASH worked with the Soi Dog Foundation, a Thailand-based non-profit organization that rescued the dogs from being trafficked into the dog meat industry in that region.

MacDonald said the dogs, which have all received veterinary check-ups and the necessary vaccinations before arriving in Canada, will stay in foster homes for about five to eight weeks until they are ready for adoption.

Cathy Zaste, who met the dogs at the airport, said she broke down in tears as soon as the animals entered the arrivals terminal around 11 p.m. “We had to wait a fair while for them to clear customs, so you’re waiting there

in anticipation,” she said. “But as soon as the crates came out, it was pretty emotional.” (*Metro*)

Canada – Non-stop flight links YVR with Indian capital

Air Canada said on April 27 it is launching a non-stop service between Vancouver and New Delhi, India's capital, in October, in time for the Diwali festivities.

Airline officials say the thrice-weekly flights will start on Oct. 20. Air Canada said Metro Vancouver's enormous South Asian community has demanded the flight for many years. However, it was only with the addition last summer of the super-efficient Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner to Air Canada's fleet that a flight between YVR and Indira Gandhi International Airport, in India's National Capital Territory, made economic sense.

Vancouver Airport Authority president Craig Richmond said the flight — which officials have worked on for at least three years — was among the most desired routes by the local community. "After Paris, it was probably the most-requested direct flight destination," Richmond said.

The Air Canada flights to Delhi will depart on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, with departures from Delhi on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturday. The flights will leave YVR at 9:40 p.m. and arrive in India at 1:20 p.m. Delhi time. The return flights will leave India at 6:30 a.m. and arrive in Vancouver at 6:55 a.m. to allow for connecting to other North American destinations. (*Vancouver Sun*)

Canada – Calgary woman who ingested 82 cocaine pellets stopped at Edmonton International Airport

A Calgary woman accused of ingesting dozens of cocaine pellets in an attempt to smuggle them into the country will make a court appearance on May 5. The Canada Border Services Agency said the passenger was intercepted at the Edmonton International Airport on April 30 upon her return to Canada from an unknown destination.

"Upon confirmation that the traveler had ingested drugs, CBSA officers arranged for transportation to hospital for immediate medical attention as the traveler's health and safety was compromised by this type of concealment," the CBSA said in a news release.



Once the woman had expelled the drugs, they were turned over to RCMP. In total, the CBSA said the traveler had ingested 82 cocaine pellets with a total weight of 978.6 grams.

RCMP have charged Colleen Ellingson, 45, of Calgary with several offences including possession for the purpose of traffic and importation of drugs. (*Global News*)

China – Female cops combine warmth with strictness

For passengers arriving on international flights in Qingdao, the coastal metropolis of East China's Shandong province, the first people they meet are a team of female police officers at the customs gates.



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The all-female passenger inspection team was founded in 2002 to provide global tourists with a better first impression of the city. For 14 years, the team has always been composed of 15 women. They provide border-checking services with both strictness and warmth.

"Data shows that every passenger spends only 45 seconds going through customs," said Du Hui, vice-head of the team. "We hope to let them experience a warm China in the process."

The customs agents, with an average age of 28, are just as strict as men in the same job. Over the years, they have returned 320 criminals to their home countries for trial and prevented 37 escaped convicts from

going abroad, saving the State over 9 million yuan (\$1.38 million) in potential losses, officials said.

As business opportunities flourish for Qingdao, the customs team will continue to play a role in welcoming new arrivals. (ECNS)

China – Tonne of smuggled silver worth over HK\$4 million seized in Shenzhen-Hong Kong checkpoint's biggest metal-smuggling haul

Chinese customs officers at a Shenzhen checkpoint bordering Hong Kong have seized more than a tonne of silver worth some 3.5 million yuan (HK\$4.19 million) from a truck trying to cross the border.



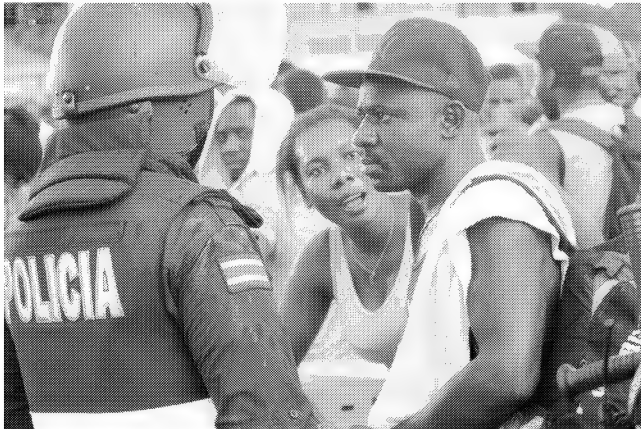
The officers were alerted on the morning of April 27, when their alarm system was activated as the refrigerator truck passed through the Huanggang checkpoint.

After the vehicle was emptied for inspection, further scans revealed something suspicious under its cooling engine. Officers eventually found 66 silver plates – each weighing about 16kg – in the truck.

The total amount of silver found amounted to 1.032 tonnes. The driver of the truck was detained, according to the report. (*South China Morning Post*)

Costa Rica – U.S.-bound Africans force their way into Costa Rica

Cuban migrants are not the only ones trying to cross through Central America on their way to the United States. On April 15 over 200 African illegal aliens were returned to Panama, but then they forced their way back into Costa Rican territory.



The African migrants were first intercepted on April 14 at Costa Rica's northern border with Nicaragua, where they closed down a road in protest because they were not allowed to enter Nicaragua to continue their journey to the U.S. On April 15 they were bussed to the southern border to be returned to Panama, from where they had presumably crossed into Costa Rica days earlier. However, Panama also did not let them pass. This left the African aliens in the border zone between the two countries, from where they forced their way back into Costa Rica.

A spokesperson for Costa Rica's Ministry of Public Security explained, "[the African migrants] are at the southern border on the Costa Rican side, we have

them guarded by Fuerza Publica, border police, and police intervention units." Costa Rica has reinforced police presence at the border.

Additionally, on April 13 Costa Rica's Foreign Ministry announced that over a thousand illegal aliens, the majority Cuban migrants along with some African migrants, forcefully and violently crossed the Costa Rican southern border with Panama. Then they blocked the road in front of the immigration facilities. After the migrants damaged a car and confronted the police, some were returned to Panamanian territory, but some were able to move further into Costa Rica and are being searched for by authorities. (*Oye! Times*)

Cyprus – Larnaca traveller caught with cocaine in chocolate boxes

Larnaca police, in cooperation with the airport's Customs authorities, on April 3 found some four and a half kilos of cocaine concealed in boxes of chocolate in a passenger's luggage.

The 23-year-old traveller, who had arrived in Cyprus from overseas no details on his nationality or where he had been travelling from were immediately available.

Cyprus – Cigarette smuggling ring convicted

Six people – including airport customs officers – have been found guilty in a cigarette smuggling scheme that goes back many years and ended up costing the state at least €639,000 in unpaid tax revenue.

After two-and-a-half years of court hearings, six people were found guilty on April 21 for illegal possession of commercial goods, conspiracy to commit fraud, committing a misdemeanour, money laundering, bribing a public official, and neglect of service duty.

The case dates back to 2008, when authorities received a tip-off and searched the cargo of a Cyprus Airways aircraft upon arrival. Expecting to find drugs in what had been declared on paper as furniture, they instead discovered 25 kilos of cigarettes and cigars.

The judge said the customs officers were providing cover for the illegal imports, making huge profits in the process while the state was losing tax revenue from tobacco products, cigars, and cigarettes.

The accused involved in the smuggling scheme are customs agent and former pub owner Panicos Avraam, cafe owner Andreas Teratsias, customs officers Giorgos Garibaldinos and Costas Zaloumis from Liopetri and Larnaca respectively, civil servant Christakis Savva from Nicosia and cigar shop owner Vahe Zadoyian, and customs officer Costas Zaloumis.

The court also found that a number of irregularities had taken place during the clearance process, meaning that no proper checks were being carried out, fraudulent documents were being used, and taxes were not being paid to the state. State prosecutors described in court how customs officers would hack into the computer system and delete data from “fixed” inspections.

Five of the six men will remain in prison until their court date, while Teratsias whose offences are not as serious, is free on a €2,000 bail.

Denmark – Denmark extends temporary checks along border with Germany

Denmark has again extended the deadline for checks along its border with Germany, this time until June 2. The government said the measures would have a ‘preventive effect.’



Danish police started to conduct spot checks at some of the country’s 15 border crossings with Germany on January 4 and have extended the deadline five times, most recently until May 3.

The checks were originally introduced hours after Sweden began requiring rail, bus and ferry companies to verify the identities of people travelling from Denmark.

Denmark has largely served as a transit country for migrants travelling to Sweden, which before January 4 had some of Europe’s most generous asylum rules.

Copenhagen has said it plans to deploy 125 members of the Home Guard to help with the spot checks, a measure aimed at easing pressure on police and allowing officers freed up by the move to return to other duties.

Danish Minister for Immigration, Integration and Housing Inger Stojberg said that there was no sign of a build-up of illegal immigrants in the country, but added that the number of asylum seekers in Europe was “historically high.”

“When asylum seekers without proper ID papers cannot travel to Sweden, there remains a serious risk that many refugees and migrants can become stranded in this country,” Stojberg added. (*Deutsche Welle*)

Dominican Republic – Smuggler of giant cockroaches faces Environment charges

The Environment Ministry on April 11 requested an investigation and charges against Russian national Igor



Rusurusov, accused of smuggling 12 giant cockroaches through Punta Cana International Airport.

The cockroaches, six male and six females, of the variety Madagascar (*Gromphadorhina portentosa*), were seized from Rusurusov when he arrived at the Bavaro-Punta Cana airport. When they were confiscated, Rusurusov said he brought cockroaches for a competition, which he didn’t specify.

Agriculture Ministry inspectors seized the insects on violation of the Law on Vegetable Health. (*Dominican Today*)

Dominican Republic – Punta Cana to add pre-clearance operations by 2017

The Association of Hotels and Tourism of the Dominican Republic president Simon Suarez announced that Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, will add pre-clearance operations by 2017.



Suarez revealed that the United States Customs and Border Protection agency will add Punta Cana to a growing number of cities and countries on the pre-clearance locations list.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has four pre-clearance locations in the Caribbean, including Freeport, Bahamas; Nassau, Bahamas; L.F. Wade International Airport in St. George's, Bermuda; and Aruba. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection also offers pre-clearance locations in Canada, Ireland and the United Arab Emirates.

Dubai, UAE – Visitor jailed for 10 years over drug smuggling bid

A Nigerian transit traveler, who tried to smuggle 1.5kg of cocaine in his stomach, has been sentenced to 10 years in jail. The Dubai Court of First Instance ordered the 34-year-old to pay a Dh50,000 fine and ordered his deportation after completing his jail sentence. The court also ordered that the drugs be confiscated.



The defendant was stopped by customs inspectors on January 27 at the Dubai International Airport. A customs inspector at the airport said the defendant arrived at the checking point around 7am. "He raised my suspicions, so I asked my colleague to search him and complete the procedures."

A policeman of the anti-narcotics division said he stood guard at the hospital the defendant was taken to. "He was referred to hospital after strange stuff was spotted in his guts. I saw

that he dropped around 43 capsules the day after his arrest."

According to the crime lab, the quantity of cocaine the defendant tried to smuggle weighed more than 1.5kg (92 capsules). He admitted to the charge in the prosecution investigation. (*Khaleej Times*)

Dubai, UAE – Vacationer caught smuggling hashish blames his friend

A visitor denied in court the charge of smuggling 4.9kg of hashish and blamed his friend, who had asked him to drop a gift [the drug] to another person in Dubai.

"I was doing a favour to my countryman friend, who gave me the box and claimed that it was a gift for his relative here in Dubai. I did not know that it was drugs," said the 29-year-old Iranian when he pleaded innocent before the Dubai Court of First Instance on April 27.

A Customs inspector was said to have stopped the suspect, A.S., at the arrivals terminal of Dubai International Airport when he was found with hashish in the bottom of his luggage in February. Drugs prosecutors charged A.S. with smuggling and possessing hashish.

"Why did you carry it then?" presiding judge Fahd Al Shamsi asked the suspect.

"I did not know that it was hashish ... I was doing my friend a favour and he told me that it was a gift. He did not mention anything about its contents," replied the suspect.

When asked how much money he received for carrying the hashish, A.S. contended: "I did not take any money. I thought I was carrying a gift."

According to records, the piece was placed in a box and covered with red pepper to hide the smell of the hashish. The Customs inspector claimed to prosecutors that her colleague at work informed her that he suspected the contents of the suspect's luggage and asked her to search him.

"The special scanning device revealed a thick substance placed at the bottom of the suspect's bag. When I asked him if he was carrying any banned substances, he said no. Then he emptied the bag that contained his clothes and sweets ... the device still showed something thick in the bottom of the bag. Then we broke open the bottom of the bag and found the hashish. The hashish was covered with a nylon wrap and it was covered with pieces of pepper to hide the smell. Upon confronting him with the findings, A.S. claimed that he did not know that the hashish was in the bag," testified the inspector. A ruling will be heard on May 11. (*Khaleej Times*)

Finland – Third-country crossing restriction comes into force at Finnish-Russian border

The Lapland border crossings of Salla and Raja-Jooseppi will only serve Finnish, Russian and Belarusian citizens for the next six months or so, after the leaders of Russia and Finland agreed to a deal to stem asylum seeker traffic in the region. The new rules came into effect on April 10 at midnight. The block on third-country border traffic will be valid for a maximum period of 180 days.



According to a joint statement from the foreign and interior ministries, the restriction aims to “prevent illegal and uncontrolled migration and related threats, and reduce opportunities for crime. Another aim is to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken in Finland and Russia in the past few weeks to combat illegal migration and its facilitation.”

The ministries state that “Finland shares the responsibility for the management of the EU’s external border, which is also the Schengen external border” and therefore must prevent the new illegal migration routes from emerging.

The Lapland Border Guard has reported that 1,757

asylum seekers crossed from Russia into Finland via the Lapland border crossings in late 2015/early 2016. The majority originated from Afghanistan and India, causing some to suspect that they weren’t actual asylum seekers and had, in fact, been living in Russia for a long time before entering Finland. (Yle)

Finland – Finnair subcontractor’s steward suspected of smuggling 33 Chinese into country

The Finnish Border Guard says a steward for national carrier Finnair’s Asian subcontractor is being held under suspicion of facilitating the illegal entry of 33 Chinese people into Europe via Finland. He is believed to have been working in association with a criminal gang active in Europe and China.



A Chinese man who worked as a steward for an Asian subcontractor of the national airline Finnair has been held under suspicion of aggravated facilitation of illegal entry into the country, reports the Finnish Border Guard. He is suspected to have smuggled 33 Chinese people into continental Europe via Finland by allowing them to bypass the Helsinki Airport immigration control without the required visas.

The Finnish Border Guard says the man was apprehended in February 2016 at the Helsinki Airport, when he was in the process of escorting two children and one adult travelling from

China to Finland. After the flight, the steward used a personnel passkey to access a door in the airport that allowed the smuggled persons to elude the passenger border checks for entering Finland and the Schengen area.

In a bulletin concerning the pre-trial investigation, the Finnish Border Guard said the man is suspected of smuggling his first group of people through Finland in 2013. Officials believe that he organised 15 such episodes since that time, smuggling 33 people into Europe without the proper paperwork.

Although the man worked alone, the Border Guard suspects that his activities were part of a larger organised crime operation in Western Europe and China. The suspect has been detained during the pre-trial investigation.

Georgia – Gold bars worth US\$445,000 seized at Georgia-Azerbaijan border



The Finance Ministry's investigative service arrested two Azerbaijani citizens on the Red Bridge border crossing for attempting to illegally import 12 kg of gold to Georgia. The value of the gold bars is more than one million laris (US\$445,000). The two were also carrying US\$131,950 cash with them.

In the car of one of the detainees, there was a hidden cache where investigators found gold wrapped in black rubber. The two were arrested while going through customs. Gold and money was seized during a search of the car.

An investigation has been launched under article 214 of the Criminal Code. This form of crime may be punished with from 8 to 11 years in jail. (*Democracy & Freedom Watch*)

Georgia – Cases of illegal importation of gold items at the Tbilisi Airport

On April 26, Revenue Service officers revealed several attempts of illegal importation of gold items at the Tbilisi Airport. On the basis of suspicion, the citizen of Azerbaijan, S.A., was inspected physically along with hand-luggage and as a result, 219.1 g of undeclared gold jewelry with a customs value of GEL13,679.77 (\$8000) was identified.

Also, as a result of a physical inspection of the citizen of Azerbaijan S.J., 87.2 g of gold items with customs value of GEL 11,331.13 (\$6630) were identified.

Both passengers were issued financial fines in the respective amounts of GEL13,679.77 and GEL11,331.13.

On the basis of suspicion and using a metal detector and a body scanner the citizen of Azerbaijan, A.A., was inspected by customs officers who revealed 378.9 g of undeclared gold jewelry. The customs value was estimated at GEL 24,539.50 (\$14,356).

Customs officers inspected a citizen of Azerbaijan H.M. using similar methods revealed 386.8 g of gold items. The customs value was estimated at GEL30,059.88 (\$17,586).

Both cases were forwarded to the Investigation Department of the Ministry of Finance.

Ghana – Three Yemenis convicted over fake passports

An Accra Circuit Court has imposed a fine of GH4,800 each on three Yemenis who travelled to Ghana with fake emergency entry visas and French passports. The three in default, would serve three months imprisonment each.

The accused are Esmail Yahya Zeyad, Gaafar Eissa Yahya Amer, Waleed Ahmed Yahya, all students. The Court ordered the three to be deported to Yemen after serving their terms. According to the court, their Yemen passports should be handed over to them after serving sentences to facilitate their deportation to Yemen. It however, ordered the destruction of the fake French passports, three months after serving or paying the fines.



The court said it took into consideration the accused persons' plea for mitigation and for being in custody for the past four and half months. The conviction came after the three had changed their pleas from not guilty to guilty. The three contended that they were deceived by the "connection man" and they had also regretted their actions and would not repeat them.

The Yemenis, further, prayed the court to spare them custodial sentence because, the offences constituted misdemeanour and indicated their readiness to go back to Yemen.

The four Yemenis were facing the charges of possessing forged documents, fake Emergency Entry Visas, and forgery of official documents. All the accused persons were Yemeni nationals who arrived at the Kotoka International Airport on board an Ethiopian Airline Flight ET 920, on November 24, last year.

While undergoing immigration procedures, Esmail, Gaafar and Waleed were found with French passports with different names. A further search on them revealed that all the accused persons had Yemeni passports as well while the French passports were found to be fake.

When the accused persons were quizzed they claimed one Abdulai Mohammed, an individual based in Yemen, secured the French passports for them. The prosecutor said they claimed the same person gave them a phone number to call a certain Mohammed on their arrival in Ghana.

The prosecution said the accused persons were in transit in Ghana to France, then to Istanbul, Turkey. Examination of their Yemeni passports indicated that Esmail and Gaafar had travelled several times to Djibouti before their trip to Ghana. (GNA)

Hong Kong – New cocaine route prompts Hong Kong customs to step up Middle East links

A new ruse by drug couriers to smuggle cocaine into Hong Kong from South America has prompted customs officials to take the unprecedented step of establishing co-operation and intelligence links with their Middle East counterparts.

After a 160 per cent rise in cocaine seizures in the city last year, local officials will also boost intelligence exchanges with their counterparts from the South American drug source countries during the International Drug Enforcement Conference in Lima, Peru, in April.



Over the past few months, Hong Kong customs had noticed a trend in which "second-leg" drug mules were recruited to pick up cocaine from South American cocaine swallows in the Middle East before flying into the city. Such handovers of drugs are understood to have taken place in airport hotels in cities like Dubai. Pellets of cocaine are discharged in a hotel room and then concealed in boxes of chocolates, candies or biscuits.

Trafficking syndicates then arrange the second-leg couriers, recruited from Africa, Europe and

Asia, to smuggle the drugs into destinations such as Hong Kong and Macau. Each second-leg courier is paid between US\$2,000 and US\$3,000, according to a source with knowledge of the investigation.

"The sleight aimed to divert the attention of the law enforcement officers at the destinations as the second-leg couriers were not travelling from the South American cocaine source countries," said a spokesman for the Customs and Excise Department. He said the method of discharging the drugs at a transit point also reduced the risk to the carrier and lowered the risk of unintended discharges on the journey.

"To tackle the recent cocaine smuggling trend, the Customs and Excise Department is planning a duty visit to the Middle East in the coming months to have face-to-face liaison with the relevant law enforcement agencies and to

establish direct contact point to effective further co-operation,” the spokesman said. “This will help us obtain up-to-date intelligence on smuggling trends and trafficking routes so that we can take appropriate action.”

Hong Kong – Courteous Immigration staff commended

Senior Immigration Assistant Mr Choi Fung-hau has been elected Hong Kong’s most courteous Immigration control officer. The prize presentation ceremony was held at Immigration Headquarters April 13.



The Assistant Director (Management and Support) of Immigration, Mr Chan Tin-chee, said that the Most Courteous Immigration Control Officers Election has been held annually since 1996 to encourage front-line officers to conduct effective immigration control and provide quality services to the public with devotion and courtesy.

“The Immigration Department is committed to providing quality and efficient immigration clearance services to travellers,” Mr Chan said. He encouraged the front-line officers to continuously make concerted efforts and strive for excellence to provide better services to the travelling public with professionalism. He also thanked the officers for their devotion in delivering courteous and efficient services, which has given visitors fond memories of Hong

Kong and contributed to promoting the Hong Kong tourism industry.

The Deputy Executive Director of the Hong Kong Tourism Board, Ms Becky Ip, presented awards and souvenirs to the winner, Mr Choi, and appointed him as a Hong Kong Courtesy Ambassador.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes ivory products at airport

Hong Kong Customs seized about 26 kilograms of ivory products worth about \$260,000 and arrested an incoming male passenger at Hong Kong International Airport April 16.



Customs officers intercepted a suspicious male passenger at the airport April 16. The 27-year-old passenger arrived in Hong Kong from Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, via Dubai, United Arab Emirates. During Customs clearance, about 26 kilograms of ivory products concealed in two tailor-made vests were found inside his hand baggage and backpack. The case was handed over to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for follow-up investigation.

Hong Kong – Woman evades three levels of Hong Kong airport security

Security at Hong Kong International Airport has come under fresh scrutiny after a woman was able to pass through three separate security checks without a boarding pass or passport.



A police investigation has been launched into why the 21-year-old Hong Kong resident – Man Mei-po, who is understood to suffer from a mental disability – was allowed to reach a far-flung boarding gate in Terminal 1 before being stopped.

The incident piles pressure on airport security chiefs, already at the centre of an escalating row about security protocols and abuse of power allegations over a bag being delivered to Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying's daughter from a non-restricted to a restricted area in March.

In the early hours of April 20, Man evaded initial boarding pass checks, passed through an X-ray

scanner and strolled past guards before using an immigration e-channel to access the departure lounge. She then took a shuttle train to gate 520.

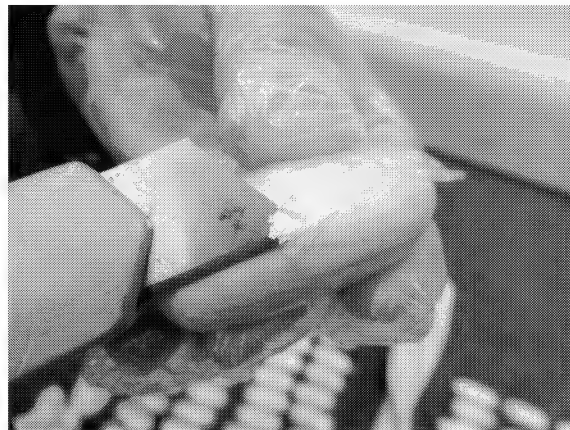
"Initial investigations show she bypassed security at the entrance when a security guard was dealing with another traveller," a source said. "She went through the X-ray check then used an e-channel for immigration clearance with her Hong Kong identity card."

Man, who had no bags, was finally stopped by a security guard from the Aviation Security Company (Avseco) when he found her wandering near the gate, muttering to herself, according to a source with knowledge of the incident. She claimed she was travelling to South Korea. Later, she was taken to the airport police station.

Man was not formally arrested and was later picked up by her 63-year-old father. It is understood she is a long-term out-patient of a public hospital psychiatric unit. (*South China Morning Post*)

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes cocaine at airport

Hong Kong Customs detected a drug trafficking case at Hong Kong International Airport April 18 and arrested an incoming female passenger and seized about 1.4 kilograms of cocaine.



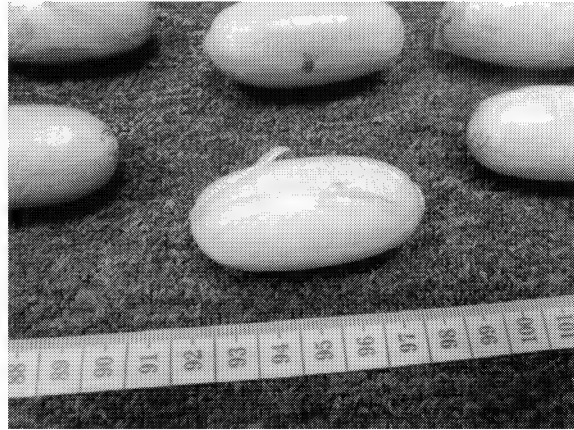
The arrested woman arrived at Hong Kong from Nairobi, Kenya via Dubai, United Arab Emirates April 18. During Customs clearance, Customs officers found a wine box in her hand-carry baggage. X-ray check revealed suspicious images in the wine box. In-depth examination led to the discovery of 75 pellets of cocaine with a total weight of about 1.4 kilograms.

The arrested woman, aged 27 and claimed to be a merchant, was charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes cocaine at airport

Hong Kong Customs seized about 1.2 kilograms of cocaine, with a market value of about \$1.22 million, and arrested a male passenger at Hong Kong International Airport April 27.

The arrested man arrived at Hong Kong from Düsseldorf, Germany via Dubai April 27. During customs clearance, Customs officers found 3 candy boxes in his hand carry baggage. X-ray check revealed suspicious images on the candy boxes. In-depth examination led to the discovery of 55 pellets of cocaine with a total weight of about 1.2 kilograms.



The arrested man, aged 24, was charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. He will appear at Tsuen Wan Magistrates' Courts April 28.

India – Customs arrests man for smuggling gold worth Rs 15.6 million at IGIA

A man was arrested on April 6 for trying to smuggle into the country gold valued at about Rs 15.6 million at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in New Delhi.

The accused was intercepted by customs officials on his arrival from Bahrain. On detailed examination, he was found carrying 5.5 kg of gold, said Vinayak Azaad, Additional Commissioner of Customs at the IGIA. He said the gold was in the form of bars of 250 g each.

The accused has been arrested and the yellow metal worth Rs 15.6 million seized. (*The Sen Times*)

India – Man arrested at Delhi Airport for smuggling gold worth Rs. 10 million

A man was arrested at the Delhi airport April 12 for trying to smuggle gold valued at about Rs. 10 million from Dubai.

The customs officials intercepted the man after a tip off from the Delhi police. On detailed examination, he was found carrying 500 gold coins weighing 3.9 kg, a senior customs official said. The value of the seized gold is assessed at Rs. 9,917,000, he said.

The accused, an engineer, has been arrested and further investigation is on, the official said. (NDTV)

India – 2 Sri Lankans with fake passports nabbed

Two Sri Lankan nationals were arrested by Dabolim airport police for trying to board a Sharjah-bound flight with fake passports.

DySP Sucheta Dessai said, "They portrayed themselves as Indians but immigration officials suspected otherwise." The accused as per their names in the passports M Lusin and Srinivasan Balsubramanyam.

They were handed over to the Dabolim police. The police are investigating when and how they managed to enter Goa. (*The Times of India*)

India – Passenger held at RGIA with Rs 14.1 million worth foreign currency

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) sleuths have arrested a Dubai-bound passenger at the RGI Airport while he was trying to smuggle out Rs 14.1 million (\$270,720) worth foreign currency on April 13.

The passenger came to airport to board the Dubai-bound Emirates flight (EK 527). Acting on a specific alert, DRI sleuths opened his checked-in baggage and found Rs 14.1 million worth foreign currency deftly wrapped in a black polythene and concealed in plastic jars. The seized foreign currency contains Australian dollars, Saudi Riyals, Omani Riyals, Qatar Riyals and Kuwaiti Dinars.

The offender was booked under the *Customs Act* read with FEMA. The accused was produced before the special judge for economic offences and he was remanded in judicial custody.

India – \$100,000 seized at Chennai airport

Officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized \$100,000 (about Rs. 6,750,000) from three passengers who arrived from Singapore on April 20.

Following a tip-off, a team intercepted Iqbal, Zahir Hussain and Ibrasama Maideen who were in possession of the currency concealed in knee pads. One of them had planned to smuggle the money to Singapore and took a flight the previous day. However, due to some problems in landing, he chose to return to Chennai and tried to clandestinely pass through Customs. They were arrested under the *Customs Act* and *Foreign Exchange Management Act*.

In another case, the DRI officials seized Rs. 3,489,000 from two passengers bound for Singapore via Colombo on April 20.

On April 21, DRI teams intercepted two persons who smuggled gold from Sri Lanka. The suspects, who took the sea route, were nabbed when they were about to hand over 3.4 kg of gold worth about Rs. 10.3 million to an agent. (*The Hindu*)

India – Two gold seizures worth Rs 22.4 million in 2 days at Dabolim airport

In a major haul, the air intelligence unit of commissionerate of customs and central excise seized unclaimed gold worth Rs 22.4 million on two different occasions at Dabolim airport on April 26 and 27.



As per commissioner of customs K Anpazhakan, both seizures were made from Qatar Airways flight QR-522. In the first instance, a duty-free plastic bag containing unclaimed gold, including chains, bangles, kada, bracelets, etc., was found in a dustbin in the toilet of the aircraft.

"The total value of the 7.124 kilogram gold seized on April 27 was around Rs 17 million," informed Anpazhakan. Customs sleuths detained some passengers on suspicion, but they were released later.

In the second instance, two kilogram of gold bars, amounting to Rs 5.4 million, were seized on April 26. "The two gold bars were kept inside the pouch of a life jacket attached below a passenger's seat," Anpazhakan said.

When asked whether there could be involvement of any ground handling staff of the airlines in smuggling the gold into Goa, the customs commissioner expressed such a possibility, but said it was too early to pinpoint anyone as the matter was in the primary stage of investigation.

Meanwhile, in earlier cases, he said around nine persons of the total 10, who have been arrested under *Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act*, would be sentenced to one year imprisonment. The accused were caught in Goa for smuggling gold on various occasions. (*The Navhind Times*)

India – 7 kg gold abandoned in aircraft toilet seized

Over seven kilograms of gold, found abandoned in a toilet on a Qatar Airways plane, was seized by Customs investigators at the Goa airport April 27.

"When the Qatar Airways aircraft (after landing at Goa airport) was searched April 27, the Air Intelligence Wing found one duty-free plastic bag in the dustbin of the rear left toilet of the aircraft," Commissioner of Customs, Goa division, K Anpazhakan told reporters. "An inquiry was made with crew members of the aircraft which had arrived from Qatar. They informed that they were not aware of the owner of the bag," he said.

The bag was opened at the international arrival hall of the airport and it was found to be carrying jewellery weighing 7.124 kg. "The correct value of jewellery would be known only after an approved valuer is approached. Inquiries were made with the arrival passengers but no one was having any knowledge about it," the Commissioner said.

Mr Anpazhakan said this is the second seizure of gold by Goa Customs in a week. "Another seizure of two kilograms of unclaimed gold bars was made by officers in the same flight on April 24. The bars were hidden inside the pouch in the life jacket which was attached below a passenger's seat," he said. (NDTV)

India – Arrest of RGIA staffer uncovers gold smuggling racket

The arrest of a ground staffer at the RGIA on charges of smuggling gold on April 28 was a result of a four-month long operation by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. Aslam, the staff member of Menzies Bobba Ground Handling Services, was held on April 28 after he helped smuggle 3.03-kg gold from the airport.

Details about the gold smuggling operation first emerged on January 15 when DRI sleuths arrested another Menzies and Bobba worker, Srinath, who was picked up with gold bars weighing 4.65 kg hidden in cigarette packets on an aerobridge. The gold had been delivered by a passenger arriving from Dubai on a Qatar Airways flight.

On interrogation, Srinath confessed that he had received the yellow metal from a 'carrier', based on the instructions of his senior colleague Aslam. In fact, it was Aslam who was supposed to have picked up the gold, but he noticed the movement of DRI sleuths near the aerobridge and sent Srinath instead.

After Srinath's arrest, Aslam became cautious and resisted getting involved in any nefarious activities for a few months. Enhancement of the screening process for staff to enter aerobridge following Srinath's arrest also prevented him from sending his men onto the aerobridge to collect gold from the 'carriers' before they entered customs check area.

After analysing the enhanced security in place, Aslam soon got in touch with the gold smuggling racketeers in Dubai once again. "He began to collect gold from carriers after they came off the aerobridge. He used to bypass CISF personnel posted in the area to exclusively screen staff members entering the aerobridge," said a DRI official.

DRI officials had begun monitoring Aslam's activities after Srinath's confession. On April 28, three small teams kept a watch on his movement in order to catch him red-handed. Aslam, who was supposed to take care of ground-handling work for British Airways flight, reached a 'designated spot' when an Emirates Airways flight landed that day. "Aslam was not supposed to be there as Menzies and Bobba does not handle ground-handling work for Emirates flights at RGIA. Aslam reached there to collect gold from the carrier who arrived on an Emirates flight from Dubai," said a source working at the airport.

Aslam had received the photograph of the carrier from his Dubai-based handlers through WhatsApp and had deleted it after taking a look, sources said. The carrier also called Aslam after the flight landed in Hyderabad and told him what kind of clothing he was wearing. The latter then met the carrier and got his immigration formalities

processed quickly after informing the staff that the carrier was his relative. "After the immigration check, Aslam took the carrier to a 'blind spot' and collected the gold from him. After collecting the gold, Aslam used his security pass to bypass customs' check area and left the arrival block," a DRI official said.

However, the DRI teams caught him at the VIP parking area when he was about to leave on a bike. After arresting him, DRI sleuths realised that there was no receiver at the airport and they tried to arrest the carrier. However, the carrier had already left, thanks to quick immigration clearance he got. "The carrier was not carrying any checked-in baggage so he managed to leave quickly. His phone was also turned off," sources said.

Aslam was produced before the court on April 29 and remanded in judicial custody. (*The Times of India*)

Indonesia – Singaporean nabbed for smuggling drugs into Bali

Singaporean citizen Mohammad Noh Bin Abdul Salam was forced to cancel his 33th birthday party in Bali on April 29 after Ngurah Rai Airport customs officers arrested him for bringing drugs onto the island. The cafe employee in Singapore was found to bring 10 ecstasy (MDMA) pills and some LSD in the form of "happy paper", which has been more widely known as "blotter acid" since the 1960s.



The Bali Customs and Excise Office's prosecution and investigation chief, Husni Syaiful, said Mohammad Noh was arrested upon his arrival at the airport via Malaysia on AirAsia flight AK 376 on April 26. He said it was the office's K-9 team that found something suspicious in Mohammad's luggage. "When we examined it, we found 10 MDMA pills and one piece of happy paper," Husni said in a press conference on April 27.

Officers said Mohammad told the police he bought the drugs in Malaysia. "He said he was preparing the drugs for his birthday party in Bali," Ngurah Rai Customs and Excise Office head Budi Harjanto said.

Mohammad Noh will be charged with violating Article 113 of the 2009 Narcotics Law, which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment and a Rp 10 billion (US\$757,289) fine. He was handed over to the police on April 27 for further legal processing. (*The Jakarta Post*)



Ireland – Revenue officers seize cocaine worth €250,000 in Dublin Airport

Revenue officers seized 3.8kg cocaine 10/04/2016 at Dublin Airport.

A 39 year old Portuguese woman arrived in Dublin from Dubai. When she was stopped and questioned, following routine profiling by Revenue officers, she was found to be carrying the cocaine in three confectionery tins. The woman was arrested and detained by Gardaí. Investigations are ongoing with a view to prosecution. The estimated street value of the cocaine is €250,000.



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Ireland – Revenue seizes smuggled cigarettes at Dublin Port and Airport

Revenue officers in Dublin Port seized almost 250,000 cigarettes 20/04/16. The smuggled cigarettes, branded Marlboro Gold, Marlboro Red and Winston Blue were concealed in a heavy goods vehicle that arrived in Dublin Port from Rotterdam.



As the Polish-registered tractor unit disembarked, hauling heavy farm machinery on a low-loader, customs detector dog “Casey” indicated interest. Officers scanned and searched the vehicle, uncovering the cigarettes concealed in the trailer’s chassis rail. The driver, a Polish man in his 30s, was questioned and Revenue seized the truck and the trailer. Investigations are ongoing.

In a separate intervention at Dublin Airport on 17/04/16, 9,300 Kent branded cigarettes were discovered in the baggage of a 23 year old Moldovan man who had arrived in Dublin from Frankfurt.

The man was arrested and appeared before Judge Cormac Dunne in the Criminal Courts of Justice on 18/04/16 charged with the illegal importation of cigarettes. He was remanded in custody to appear in court again on 22/04/16. The total value of the seized cigarettes is approximately €135,000 representing a potential loss to the Exchequer of €116,250.

Italy – German stopped in Rome after human skull found in suitcase

A university professor from Germany was charged with illegal possession of human remains after a human skull was found in his suitcase at Rome’s Fiumicino airport. The man, who was about to board a flight to Dusseldorf, was passing through the security gate at Terminal 1 on April 4 when the skull was found in his hand luggage.



When asked what he was doing with the skull, the professor claimed he bought it from a market stall in Rome on April 3, and intended to use it for scientific purposes. He said he paid €50 for the skull, described as being “well-polished but without its lower jaw”, at the stall on via Giulia.

The man was later charged by border police for illegal possession of human remains. The skull, meanwhile, has been sent to Italy’s Scientific Police (Polizia Scientifica), who will determine its origin. (*The Local*)

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Jamaica – British woman held at MoBay airport with cocaine



Detectives attached to the Narcotics Division are reporting the seizure of 11.36 kilos (25 pounds) of cocaine at the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay, St James, April 16. A British woman was subsequently arrested.

Reports are that about 3:30 pm, officers approached the suspect and requested a search of her luggage. On closer inspection of her luggage, the drug, estimated at a street value of J\$13 million, was found hidden in false compartments. She was then detained for questioning.

Jamaica – British man held with cocaine at MoBay airport

A British man was arrested April 30 for breaches of the *Dangerous Drugs Act* at the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay, St James. He is Jason Robinson, 22, a security guard of Harold Road, Birmingham, England. Robinson has been charged with possession of, dealing in, and attempting to export cocaine.

Reports from police attached to the Border Security Branch are that Robinson was attempting to board a flight to England when he was searched and cocaine weighing 3.5 pounds found in his luggage. He was subsequently arrested and charged. (*Jamaica Observer*)

Japan – 159 from Taiwan bypass immigration at Narita, slip into Japan

Narita International Airport allowed 159 people who arrived April 17 on a flight from Taiwan to enter Japan without going through immigration because of a logistics mishap. Japanese budget carrier Vanilla Air said that around 110 of the passengers on Flight 104 from Taipei to Tokyo have already been contacted and processed properly, and that the remainder are being contacted by phone or email.

"We have not heard of an incident before in which this many people entered the country (through Narita) without going through immigration," an official from the airport's operator said.

The mistake occurred when the buses transporting the passengers to the terminal dropped them off at an arrival gate for domestic flights. It is possible Flight 104 was mistaken for a domestic flight because it was temporarily diverted to another airport in Aichi Prefecture before arriving at Narita due to strong winds, Vanilla Air said.

Most of the people Vanilla Air is still trying to reach are Japanese, the carrier said. (*The Japan Times*)

Jersey – Escort smuggled drugs into Jersey in Kinder Egg case

An escort who smuggled class A drugs into Jersey from Singapore inside a Kinder egg case has been ordered to leave the Island.



On 12 April Felicia Ang was found in possession of a small amount of cocaine and £200 worth of MDMA after being stopped by Customs officers at the Airport. The Magistrate's Court heard on April 13 that the 33-year-old had carried the drugs inside a small plastic case normally used to hold toys in Kinder Surprise chocolate eggs. Ang later told officers she worked as an escort, but she did not have any clients booked in Jersey.

Police legal adviser Lawrence O'Donnell, prosecuting, said there was 'no benefit' in the

defendant remaining in Jersey and that she had enough money to pay for her return to Singapore.

Ang, who pleaded guilty to two counts of importing class A drugs, told the court that she was sorry for what she had done and was bound over to leave the Island for three years. (*Jersey Evening Post*)

Jordan – Jordan police arrest 12 at airport, border in smuggling attempt

Jordanian border guards on April 25 foiled an infiltration attempt by 12 persons from foreign countries who sought to cross from Jordan into a neighbouring country, an official source at the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army said. The 12 suspects were arrested and referred to the relevant authorities.

Also on April 26, the army said it received 301 Syrian refugees during the previous 24 hours. Border Guards transferred the refugees to shelters and camps and Royal Medical Services cadres treated the injured.

Meanwhile, the Airports Security and Protection Directorate cooperating with anti-narcotics division at the Queen Alia International Airport arrested a foreign person who attempted to smuggle 0.5 kg of cocaine through the airport, a source said. (*Albawaba*)

Kenya – Lion teeth have magical healing powers – Chinese suspects

Two Chinese nationals will have to pay heavy fines or serve lengthy prison terms after being found in possession of wildlife trophies. Yu Miahong who was found in possession of two ivory tusks has been sentenced to seven years in jail or a fine of Sh5 million. Zhang Bailoni was sentenced to two years or a Sh5 million fine.



The two committed the offence on April 4 while transiting through Jomo Kenyatta international airport from Nigeria on route to Guangzhou China.

Miahong pleaded for mercy saying she was ill and had bought the tusks and lion teeth to heal her from cancer. They pleaded with the court for a lenient sentencing saying that they are from humble backgrounds. The court considered their mitigation before the sentence, and urged them to respect wildlife.

The two were arrested by Customs officials at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport when sniffer dogs singled out their luggage while in transit. The trophies included bangles and a comb of worked ivory and shells of pangolin. The exhibits were forfeited to the Kenya wildlife service.

Kenya – Kenya-Somalia border fence to continue

The construction of the 700km Kenya-Somalia border fence to bar unwanted persons from illegally getting into the country will continue as planned.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Joseph Nkaissery said the fence will not deter or limit the movement of other people from and to Somalia as perceived. "This fence will help us check on people like Al-Shabaab from crossing to and from Somalia. We will not limit movement of other people," he said.

The minister said there will be entry points with immigration officers at Mandera, Elwak, Liboi and other areas down to Lamu to screen those getting in and out of the country. Designated border points will have police posts, Kenya Revenue Authority officers and other government offices to provide vital services.

Nkaissery said the fence will have CCTVs installed at strategic points and will consist of various obstacles including a ditch and a patrol road for the security agents. The fence will run across the whole Kenya-Somalia border from Kiunga in Lamu county to the Mandera-Ethiopia border at River Dawa.

The construction has since started and Nkaissery said Kenya is committed to its completion. He did not, however, state how much the fence and the security installations will cost, but said it will keep al Shabaab militants from sneaking into Kenya.

He said biometric data of all those entering Kenya from Somalia will be taken by security and immigration officers stationed at strategic points along the border. (*Geeska Afrika*)

Korea – Would-be refugees are trapped in the airport

Some 150 foreigners are trapped in a single room in Incheon International Airport after their attempts to enter Korea were blocked. They have access to toilets and showers, and are given one blanket each. They eat fast food sandwiches and Coca-Cola - three times a day. They may be here for a while.



The 28 Syrians are sharing the 470-square-meter (5,060-square-foot) deportation room with people from nine other countries who have been refused entry, including Thailand, China, Egypt, Kazakhstan and Pakistan. The room is designed for 30 people.

Omar Muhammad (a pseudonym) is one of the Syrians trapped in the terminal. Since leaving the Aleppo region last December, Omar transited through Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates and then flew on to Korea. All of what he has seen of Korea is the eastern end of Incheon airport.

The immigration office at the airport decided not to submit his refugee-status application to the Ministry of Justice for "lack of clear reason for entry" into South Korea. "Often, we cannot determine the exact reason for the applicants leaving their home country, and the airport needs to filter these applicants out," a Justice Ministry official said.

The immigration office may refuse to process a foreigner's application for refugee status for various reasons, such as applicants' lack of cooperation in identifying themselves, posing a security risk to the country or failing to find evidence of persecution or fear of persecution in the applicants' flight from their home country.

For those whose applications are rejected by immigration, there is no protection provided by the government. They are handled by Incheon's Airline Operators Committee.

Forced deportations of the 150 foreigners is also not an option. "The Ministry of Justice can neither deport those who were refused entry into the country, nor protect them, as there is no legal foundation for such action," a ministry official said. "The best option for now is to set a limit on the number of refugee-status applications."

Kuwait – Hidden money at airport

A Jordanian man was arrested at Kuwait International Airport while attempting to leave the country with KD 32,000 (\$136,000) in cash without notifying officers.

He was sent to criminal detectives for questioning, and to find out why he hid the money. (*Kuwait Times*)



Kuwait – 4 parcels of marijuana seized

Customs officers at Kuwait airport arrested an Asian man in his attempt to smuggle into the country four parcels of marijuana concealed inside his traveling bag. He was referred to relevant authorities.

In a related story, the officers apprehended an Asian man who wanted to smuggle 124 bags of canned liquor hidden in his luggage. He was referred alongside the items to the concerned authority. (*Arab Times*)

Kuwait – Some immigration staff at airport show low level of hospitality

Head of parliament's Priorities Committee MP Yousef Al-Zalzalah criticized the uncivilized environment in Kuwait International Airport especially the low level of hospitality shown by some employees of the airport, which is considered as "the face of Kuwait".

MP Al-Zalzalah explained that the airport is the first place where visitors should know Kuwait as a good and generous country. However, some immigration employees in the airport insist on portraying a grim image of Kuwait to the passengers by behaving recklessly, which is a clear indication of their lack of the minimum principles to follow when dealing with the public.

He requested Ministry of Interior to send employees who work at the immigration counters to Dubai to learn from their counterparts in the Dubai Airport on how to deal with the public in a manner that will reflect the elegance of the country and its people.

Dr Al-Zalzalah requested border entries' officials to prevent employees from using their mobile phones during work, indicating that they spend 95 percent of their time on their mobile phones and only 5 percent working. He said he hopes the concerned officials of Ministry of Interior will receive this message and does something in that regard, especially since many people have been complaining about these employees. (*Arab Times*)

Lebanon – Airport Customs seizes 31 kg of cocaine, arrests smuggler

The Ministry of Finance has announced that, in one of the biggest smuggling operations through Rafik Hariri



International Airport, airport Customs seized at midnight April 12 in the arrivals hall 31 kilograms of cocaine packed in nylon bags inside two suitcases (5 red powder and 24 white powder packs) smuggled into the country by a Lebanese coming from Brazil via Abu Dhabi.

The smuggler was arrested and the cocaine was seized as per the signal of the Public Prosecution Appeals in Mount Lebanon. He was later referred to the Central Office for the fight against drugs. (National News Agency)

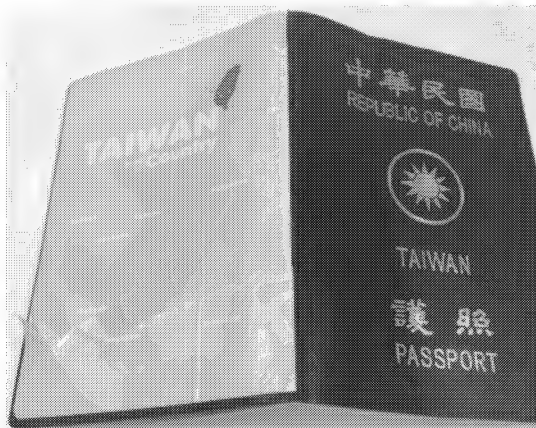
Lebanon – Almost five kilograms of cocaine seized at Beirut airport

Customs officials at the Beirut airport seized an amount of cocaine on April 25 from a man who had arrived from South America, the Finance Ministry announced.

The ministry said the man, who had come from Brazil, was found with 4.5 kg of the drug in one of his bags.

Macau – China slammed over Macau customs

Several lawmakers blasted China over a decision by customs officials in Macau to deny entry to a Taiwanese woman because her passport had a sticker on it that read: "Taiwan is my country."



The woman, surnamed Su, is a dancer who arrived in Macau on April 14 with the rest of her dance troupe for performances there. The report said that after seeing the sticker on the back cover of her passport, Macau customs officials took Su into a small room for questioning, during which they allegedly told her: "You are asking for trouble by challenging China's authority."

Su was denied entry on the grounds that "the authenticity of [her] travel document is questionable," causing her to face possible compensation claims from her agency due to her failure to take part in the planned performances, the report said.

Su said she put the sticker on the back of her passport when she was studying abroad in 2012 and that she had no trouble entering Japan, South Korea and Europe in the past four years.



The report quoted Su as saying that in a last-ditch attempt to not let her passport jeopardize her chance of participating in the performances, she had expressed willingness to remove it. However, the customs officials still asked her to sign an affidavit and arranged for her to be on the next available flight to Taiwan, Su was quoted as saying.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokeswoman Eleanor Wang said any unauthorized modifications made to a passport could impede its identification purpose and global credibility.

"The ministry has repeatedly cautioned our citizens about the matter. The nation's passports currently enjoy visa-free or landing visa status in 164 countries. The public should cherish this hard-earned achievement and refrain from making any alterations to passports to safeguard their rights while traveling," Wang said.

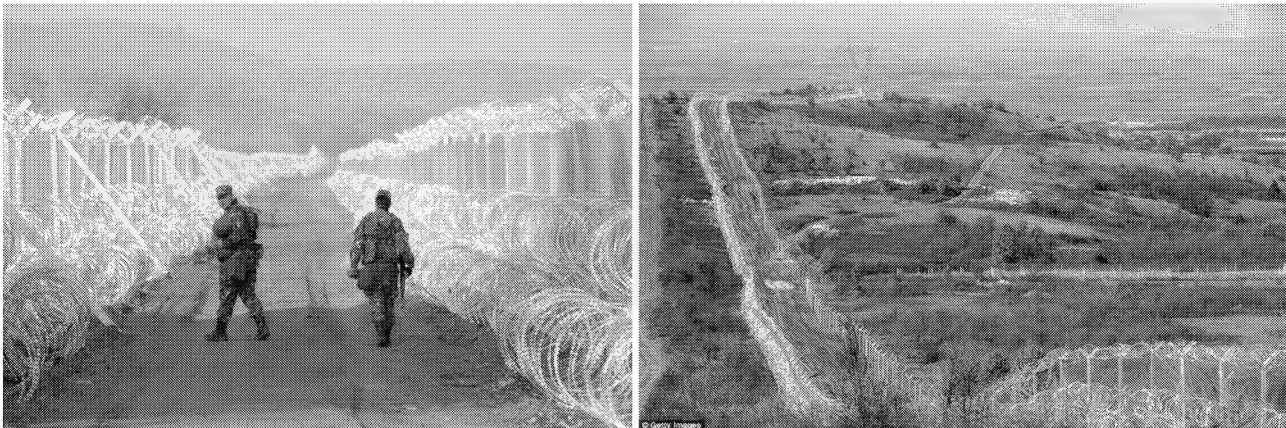
Wang said that as of April 19, a total of 16 Taiwanese, including Su, had been denied entry by Macau customs officials due to stickers on their passports this year. (*Taipei Times*)

Macedonia – The wall works: Macedonia's strong border controls keeping out migrants

The number of illegal migrants crossing into the European Union in the West Balkan region has dropped by 90 per cent since Macedonia strengthened its border with Greece, EU border agency Frontex has said. In March 4,930 people crossed the Greek-Macedonian border illegally, 10 per cent of the figure for the same month last year.

Despite the success of the Macedonian controls, however, the number of migrants entering Europe through Italy is growing as summer nears and conditions become more favourable to crossing the Mediterranean.

The Greek-Macedonian border has become a major flashpoint in recent weeks, especially around the town of Idomeni, with trapped migrants trying to break through the fence, often with the help of open borders activists.



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras claimed Macedonia had "shamed" Europe by closing its border and then deploying tear gas against migrants who tried to break through, but Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov hit back, accusing Greece of failing to stop incursions onto its soil.

Hundreds of migrants tried to storm the fence and bring it down, but were held back after Macedonian police used rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades. A leaflet had been circulating in the 11,000-strong Idomeni camp telling inhabitants to rise up and overwhelm the Macedonia guards.

Around 500 migrants attacked the fence, hurling stones at patrol cars and border police across the border, but a tip off led to Macedonia deploying more officers than usual.

Greek media blamed hard left 'no borders' activists for creating the detailed leaflets, leading to concerns Western radicals may be encouraging migrants to take dangerous risks to cross European borders. (*Breitbart*)

Maldives – Three contraband seizures at Airport Customs during April

Customs has intercepted three consignments of contraband goods during the month of April. The contraband goods include heroin and live birds.



In the first drug seizure on 3rd May, Customs seized 940 grams of powdered heroin from a 29 year old Maldivian male who arrived from Sri Lanka (via Colombo) via Srilankan Airlines. Through profiling and targeting, the individual was subject to checking. Upon examination, officers found the powder concealed inside his baggage.

On the same day, 762 grams of heroin was confiscated from the baggage of a Maldivian female who arrived in Male via Srilankan Airlines.

Another seizure was also made on 27 April in which live birds were seized from a 35 year old Maldivian male who arrived to Male from Bangkok. Through intelligence information, the baggage of the male was inspected. Eleven birds were found hidden inside, including six green cheeks and two eagles.

Malta – Ethiopian woman admits smuggling 16 kilos of shisha tobacco, gets suspended sentence

An Ethiopian woman who smuggled some 16 kilos of shisha tobacco to Malta has been handed a six-month jail term, which was suspended for two years.

Saediya Edris, who has humanitarian protection and lives in Rome, was charged with failing to declare 64 packets of tobacco with customs officers at the airport on April 27. The importation of this kind of tobacco in Malta is restricted. She was also charged with failing to pay €551 in excise duty and €156 in VAT on the tobacco, which had a value of €320. Ms Edris pleaded guilty to the charges.

Magistrate Francesco Depasquale handed down a six-month prison sentence, which was suspended for two years. He also fined the woman €1,655, of which €551 is payable to the customs department.

Mexico – Woman arriving to Puerto Vallarta sent home over passport card

A couple expecting to spend their vacation in Mexico had their trip brought to a halt when the airport in Puerto Vallarta wouldn't accept a passport card.

Kristine and Richard Scimeca had booked a flight leaving from O'Hare International Airport April 16 and arriving in Puerto Vallarta. "This was a company trip that I won, which I worked hard for three months," Richard Scimeca said.



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When the couple arrived at the Chicago airport, Richard Scimeca had a traditional passport, but his wife had a passport card. A United Airlines representative assisted them with entering the information from the passport card and said there was no problem. But when the pair arrived in Mexico, officials would not let Kristine leave the airport. Less than two hours later, the Scimecas were being sent home.

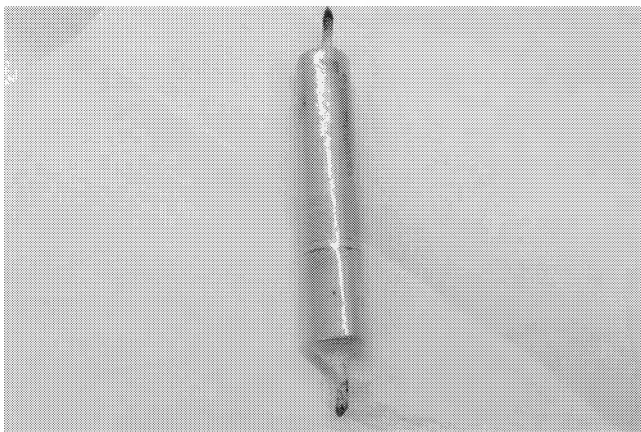
A passport card only applies for land or sea travel to certain locations internationally. While that information is

printed on the back of the card, the Scimecas admit they didn't see it. But it was an oversight they said should have been caught by the airline. "United should have never let us out of O'Hare," Kristine Scimeca said.

The Scimeca's booking agent, Apple Vacations, said the travel documents clearly state that you cannot fly using a passport card and United Airlines said it is the passenger's responsibility to handle all of their travel documents. The airline noted, however, that it plans to work with the Scimecas to remedy the situation.

"We hope nobody else runs into this problem," Kristine Scimeca said. "We don't want anybody to have to go through what we did." The Scimecas said on April 18 the airline plans to cover the airfare for a new trip.

Netherlands – Customs team finds over €70,000 hidden in body lotion



Customs officers at Eindhoven Airport found 70 thousand euros hidden in two bottles of body lotion when searching the luggage of a Spanish man. The money was carefully covered in plastic wrap and hidden in the skincare products. Another five thousand euros was found when the man himself was searched.

The Spaniard arrived at the airport on a flight from Milan. He was arrested on suspicion of money laundering and handed over to the Tax Office's investigative department FIOD. The money was seized and the man was released after questioning.

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New Zealand – Latam Airlines fined for letting banned man into NZ

An airline has copped a fine after letting a Brazilian man not allowed into New Zealand catch a plane to Auckland, despite being warned five times he wasn't allowed. Latin American company Latam Airlines was handed a \$9000 fine at the Manukau District Court over the breach last July.

A check-in officer for the airline at Santiago Airport in Chile was prompted by a security system that the man had been refused entry into New Zealand, but instead just kept entering the man's name with different spellings until it didn't come up with a warning. He had to try spelling the name six different ways before being cleared, Immigration New Zealand said. The Brazilian man arrived in Auckland, but was sent back the same day.

Immigration NZ national border manager Senta Jehle said the breach was particularly serious because the man had been previously been told he couldn't come to New Zealand.

The airline earlier pleaded guilty to failing to comply with the *Immigration Act* and faced a maximum penalty of \$50,000.

New Zealand – American drug mules 'duped' into smuggling meth worth \$7m

A retired American couple caught smuggling about \$7 million worth of drugs into New Zealand claim they were duped by a man from Ghana. The couple, from San Diego, were caught at Auckland International Airport with 7.2 kilograms of methamphetamine hidden inside the lining of two suitcases.



Archie Ross, a 68-year-old Vietnam War veteran, and Karenkay Ross, a 67-year-old cancer sufferer, were each sentenced to more than four years' jail on April 15 at the Auckland High Court.

Before being arrested in Auckland, they had traversed the globe for six months delivering packages at the behest of their Ghanaian handler, a man identified by them as Daniel Koffi. The retirees had carried packages for Koffi from India to Japan, Peru to Ghana, Brazil to Italy, and from Peru to Hong Kong - where they were put up in a hotel for a month before flying to Auckland.

When Customs officers asked them to open the bags after their flight from Hong Kong on October 19 last year, the couple said they did not have keys.

During interviews with New Zealand police the couple said they did not know drugs were in the locked suitcases, which were to be delivered to an unnamed person in Auckland. They reported they thought the cases contained "some form of experimental or new medication for malaria treatment", according to a summary of facts for the case.

Archie Ross later told police he believed the cases contained a cleaning solution for washing "black money" - part of a long-standing West African money scam.

According to the summary of facts, “the defendants undertook three trips within six months and on each occasion Koffi paid their airfares, accommodation and expenses in exchange for them collecting packages in various countries and delivering them to associates of Koffi in other countries. The items included little boxes, bottles of substances and suitcases.”

In September 2015, they flew from Lima in Peru to Hong Kong, before splitting their consignment into two packages and delivering them to two people at Koffi's instructions.

On October 15, Karenkay Ross met two men in the couple's Hong Kong hotel and accepted two suitcases from them. The couple took photos of the suitcases and sent them to Koffi. “On the same date Koffi used a Ghanaian phone number to call a travel agent in New Delhi [in India] to book the defendants' travel accommodation ... to Auckland.”

Having been busted at the airport, Customs officials then “conducted a forensic examination of a cell phone and laptop that was in [their] possession”.

The examination uncovered a Skype conversation between the mules and their handler, which revealed more than 6200 communications between Karenkay Ross and Koffi “around a range of suspicious topics”, including detailed planning of the pick-up and delivery of packages.

In sentencing, Justice Christian Whata said Karenkay Ross was being treated for cancer, and had a severely handicapped adult daughter in the United States. Archie Ross was a war vet and also had a series of medical conditions, including a bad back and diabetes. These were mitigating factors.

They were jailed for four years and two months.

Nigeria – NDLEA seize N200m heroin at Kano Airport

The National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Malam Aminu Kano International Airport Command, has intercepted 10.6kg of high grade heroin worth N200 million. The NDLEA Kano Airport Commander, Mr Ambrose Omoru, made the disclosure while briefing newsmen at the Airport in Kano on April 7.



Omoru said the substance was intercepted on April 1, during an inward examination and clearance of luggage of Ethiopian Airline flight. He said the exhibit which originated from Moputo, Mozambique enroute Addis Ababa to Kano, was neatly concealed in eight submersible water pump machines inside two cartons wrapped with Vodacom transparent cellophane.

He noted that drug merchants had devised the new means of sending illegal narcotic

drugs through unaccompanied luggage. According to him, the consignor had checked in the luggage in Maputo Airport and declined to board a connecting flight in Addis Ababa to Kano.

“The agency will continue to discover the new tricks of the drug merchants in the illegal shipment of narcotic drugs with a view to tracking them down. On display is a combined total of 93kg of narcotic drugs seized during an outward examination of luggage at the Malam Aminu Kano International Airport in July 2015,” he said.

According to him, the drug was concealed in cartons of pressing irons mixed with hair attachments and slippers destined for Moputo, Mozambique. He said the clearing agent that brought the consignment to the Airport disappeared after sensing that the operatives of the Command had discovered the illegal drugs.

“We will continue to trail the movement of the clearing agent no matter how long it will take until he is finally arrested and prosecuted,” Omoru added. (*Daily Post*)

Nigeria – NDLEA nab two for drug trafficking

Two suspects identified as Chinweuba Echezona, 54, and Louis Ekwueme have been arrested by officials of the NDLEA for trafficking N39 million worth of cocaine to the country. The suspects who came in from Dubai were held at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos with 252 wraps of the substance weighing 4.35kg.

According to NDLEA, the suspects who were promised N500,000 each to traffic the drugs into Nigeria ingested some wraps and stuffed others in their luggage but were fished out during screening. The agency's spokesper-

son, Ofoyeju Mitchell stated that while one of the suspects was a driver, the other was a trader. "Both suspects ingested some wraps of drugs and concealed others on their bodies," he said.

Ofoyeju said both suspects were under investigation for unlawful importation of cocaine from Dubai. He said: "Chinweuba Martins Echezona, 54, packed 103 wraps of cocaine on his waist and ingested 69 wraps weighing 2.745kg, while Ekwueme Louis, 44, concealed 75 wraps in his luggage and ingested five wraps.

"Preliminary investigation by the agency revealed that the suspects were promised half a million naira each to smuggle the drugs from Dubai to Nigeria. Their trip was fully sponsored by an unidentified drug trafficking organisation. However, efforts are ongoing to trace and arrest their sponsors. Martins (Echezona) is married with five children while Louis is married with three children."

Confessing to the crime, Echezona told narcotic investigators that frustration pushed him to it. "I am a driver but for some time now I have been out of job. I have been searching for job and my condition is so bad that I could not feed and discharge my responsibilities as a father to my wife and five children. This was the reason I went into drug trafficking because they promise to pay me half a million naira. I did it in order to survive the economic hardship," he claimed.

For Ekwueme, poverty was to blame for his involvement in drug trafficking. "I used to sell jewellery but I have lost everything including my shop due to family problem. I feel ashamed that I cannot take care of my family and pay the school fees of my children. My involvement in drug smuggling was due to financial poverty." (*The Nation*)

Nigeria – NDLEA discovers 193 wraps of cocaine in passenger's socks

Operatives of the NDLEA at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport have discovered 193 wraps of cocaine inside a passenger socks. According to a statement by the NDLEA spokesperson Mr. Ofoyeju Mitchell on April 15, the drug which tested positive for cocaine with a total weight of 3.4kg was detected during routine screening of passengers on an Emirates flight from Dubai.



The suspect who is a commercial bus driver in Lagos has also been arrested. NDLEA commander Ahmadu Garba gave the name of the suspect as Maduewesi Ugochukwu Samuel.

"During screening of passengers at the arrival hall, officers noticed that he had some items attached to his legs. It was cleverly done but not good enough to escape our notice. When his socks was pulled down, suspected wraps of narcotics found to be cocaine fell down on the floor. He was immediately arrested and taken for further investigation" Ahmadu stated.

The suspect who is a commercial bus driver told narcotic investigators that he wanted to quit driving for

supply of electrical appliances and needed a huge amount to start off his business. He said he was deceived by people he ran to for financial assistance "I am a commercial bus driver in Lagos. I am from Anambra State. I completed my secondary education in 1998 at Onitsha before coming to Lagos in search of greener pastures.

My friend who lives outside the country introduced me to drug trafficking. He promised to help me with capital to start my business but after sponsoring my trip to Dubai, he told me to smuggle drugs to Nigeria. I was instructed to conceal the drugs in my socks and that it will not be detected. They also offered to pay me the sum of 800,000 naira for safe delivery of the drug.

I had wanted to start a supply business in electrical appliances but I am regretting my action because my wife is all alone while I am in NDLEA custody. This is her first pregnancy and she needs my attention. This is my greatest concern" Samuel stated. The suspect will be charged to court soon. (*National Mirror*)

Nigeria – 41 year - old ‘drug pregnant’ mother of three arrested at Lagos Airport, says ‘I take responsibility for my action’

Just as drug traffickers have learnt to adopt novelty in beating the eagle eye of security agencies to smuggle drugs in and out of the country, so also the NDLEA has fashioned and resolved to bring them to book.

No wonder a woman who faked pregnancy with drugs that tested positive to cocaine, tried as much she could to smuggle it in, failed in her bid.



Dorothy Onyekasi, 41 and a mother of three who faked pregnancy with 86 pellets of white powdery substances that tested positive to cocaine could not pass the NDLEA at the Lagos Airport. She was intercepted during the inward screening of passengers on an Emirates flight from Dubai, UAE. The cocaine is said to have a total weight of 1.72 kilogrammes.

Ahmadu Garba, NDLEA Commander, said Onyekasi almost succeeded in making the operatives of the agency buy her story with the protruding stomach to be real pregnancy.

“It was discovered that the suspect kept 86 wraps of cocaine inside a waist bag which was tied to her stomach. The drug was detected by NDLEA officers on her arrival from Dubai. The drug was packed and weighed in her presence.”

When questioned, she said she was separated from husband with three children and her involvement in drug trafficking was a mistake.

“I used to import female bags and shoes from Dubai. My involvement in drug trafficking is a mistake and I take responsibility for my action. I travelled to Dubai to buy my goods. While I was preparing to return, I met a man in Dubai who gave me the drug and promised to give me enough money to expand my business.

“He also told me that when I get to Nigeria, he will call his partner to collect the drug and give me my money. On arrival in Nigeria, officials of the NDLEA detected the drugs at the airport. It is all my fault,” Ms. Onyekasi said. “If only I was contented with the profit from the sales of my goods; I would not have been in this problem,” she sobbed. (*The Street Journal*)

Nigeria – Customs official assaults FAAN employee at Lagos Airport

An official of Nigerian Customs Service attached to the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos on April 28 assaulted a staff of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) over right of way near the Monument Gate of the cargo terminal. The struggle over right of way which occasioned a gridlock around the cargo complex propelled the Customs official to assault the FAAN staff using a tear gas.

From the injuries sustained during the attack, the FAAN personnel have been rushed to the Nigerian Air Force hospital where he is receiving treatment.

According to sources trouble started when the Customs staff who was in mufti attempted to access the Monument Gate through the exit thereby leading to gridlock on the road.

The battered FAAN staff was in the company of some of his colleagues on his way out of the Monument Gate at around 9:40am before he was attacked with teargas in the eyes by Customs staff for daring to challenge his wrong driving. The Customs personnel was arrested by the Police at the airport and has been released following intervention from his senior colleagues.

The FAAN staff narrated his ordeal: “The Customs officer was in mufti when the incident happened April 28. I was driving out of the Hajj and Cargo Terminal through the exit point when I saw a vehicle driving in through the exit point. I actually challenged him, but I was still inside the car and all of a sudden, the man I later gathered was a Customs officer came out and rained blows on me.

“As I was making attempt to come out of the car, he held me by the neck and brought out a teargas and sprayed it directly into my eyes. It took the intervention of passers-by before I could be rescued from his grip. Later, he attempted to run away, but he was chased by some of my colleagues’ right into the Customs complex.”

Also, the Chief Cargo Officer of FAAN, Mr. Benson Oweka confirmed the incident in an interview at the hospital. He said the department received a distress call that one of its staff was being beaten by Customs at the Monument Gate and before they could rush down to the place. (*The Nation*)

Northern Marianas Islands – FBI arrests man for possession of ATM skimming devices

A Chinese national was arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on April 28 after U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers confiscated ATM skimming devices from his luggage.

Xiaolin Yang made an initial appearance before Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy in federal court on April 29. Yang, who is facing the charge of illegal possession of device-making equipment, was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals after his initial court appearance. The preliminary hearing was set for May 13, 2016.

In his affidavit, FBI special agent Haejun Park stated that Yang arrived in the early morning of April 28, 2016 onboard Asiana Airlines flight No. 625 from Hong Kong via Incheon, South Korea. Park said during immigration processing by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Yang acted in a suspicious manner and was subjected to undergo additional screening. Park said ATM skimming devices were later found in Yang's luggage.

Park said while Yang was detained at the airport, and when all the other passengers had left, CBP officers noticed an "Asian male" waiting outside the arrival area. The man told CBP officers that he was waiting for a passenger but would not give the passenger's name. About 20 minutes later, the CBP officers noticed that the same man was once again in the passenger arrival area but when they approached him, he immediately left.

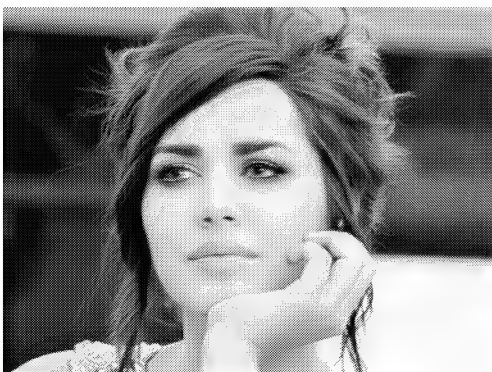
Park said with the assistance of a translator, he investigated Yang who waived his Miranda rights and provided a statement. Park said Yang was alone and he didn't know anyone on Saipan. Yang said he knew the devices were in his luggage but he didn't know what they were for. He said a friend from China asked him to carry the devices and when Yang arrived on Saipan, his friend would fly over from China to retrieve them.

Park said with Yang's consent, the FBI special agent checked Yang's belongings including an iPhone 6 and discovered chat messages between Yang and the friend from China who gave Yang detailed instructions about what to do upon arrival.

Park said he inspected the devices consisting of two green-colored card readers and six gray-colored plastic panels with pinhole cameras secreted inside. Park said he interviewed Bank of Guam vice president and CNMI regional manager Marcie Tomokane in Garapan who told him that the card readers were an exact match with the factory-installed card readers present on Bank of Guam's ATM machines. Park said Tomokane told him they were not expecting any service to be performed on any of their ATM machines on Saipan, adding that such service was performed by technicians from the mainland U.S. (*Marianas Variety*)

Pakistan – Customs court fines Ayyan Ali Rs 55,000,000

A Customs court in Rawalpindi April 5 ordered to confiscate the amount of foreign currency recovered from supermodel Ayyan Ali at the time of boarding a Dubai-bound flight from Islamabad airport in March last year and fined her Rs 55,000,000 (\$682,000).



The supermodel was taken into custody on March 14, 2015, after Customs officials at Islamabad airport recovered US\$508,600 stashed in her luggage, ahead of boarding a flight to Dubai.

Ayyan faced legal proceedings for over a year now and was finally ordered to pay a fine equal to amount recovered from him in the currency smuggling case.

Customs Collector Ali Raza on April 5 ordered confiscating the amount recovered from the supermodel along with imposing a fine worth Rs 55,000,000 on her. It was further said in the verdict that the accused did not appear before the court for eight months despite repeated issuance of summons to her.

The court also ordered the co-accused Mumtaz and Awais to pay Rs 500,000 each as fine. (*ARY News*)

Pakistan – Afghan national arrested with fake Pakistani passport

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on April 10 arrested an Afghan national in possession of a fake Pakistani passport. Gul Akhtar, the suspect, was booked a Saudi Arabia-bound PIA flight. Immigration officials, however,



found that the passport he held was fake.

During investigation, the suspect said he was an Afghan national and was currently living in a refugee camp in Haripur district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. He said his real name was Muhammad Sharif and he hailed from Jalalabad. He said he acquired the passport and work visa through an agent in Peshawar.

He has been handed over to anti-human trafficking cell of the FIA for further investigation.

Pakistan – Bids foiled to smuggle rare jewels worth Rs 120m

Pakistan Customs have foiled two bids to smuggle 1,200 grams of amphetamine crystal to Saudi Arabia from Karachi Airport. This was stated at a press conference addressed jointly by Customs Additional Collector Syed As-sad Raza Rizvi and Deputy Collector Ali Raza Turabi on April 11.



The officers said the Drug Enforcement staff intercepted a passenger namely Zaman Sher, holding Pakistani passport leaving for Saudi Arabia via Sharjah by Air Arabia flight from Karachi to Sharjah and then to Saudi Arabia. Owing to suspicion, his suitcase was examined and recovered 500 grams amphetamine crystal concealed in the walls of the suitcase, officers said.

The accused passenger has been arrested and a prosecution case was registered in the Court of Special Judge (Narcotics) Karachi.

Simultaneously, on the same day, another accused passenger namely Ibrar Hussain, holding a Pakistani passport was arrested, who was also leaving for Saudi Arabia via Sharjah by Air Arabian flight Karachi to Sharjah and Damam (Saudi Arabia). Owing to suspicion, his suitcase was examined which led to the seizure of 700 grams amphetamine crystal concealed in the walls of the suitcase.

The accused passenger has also been arrested and a prosecution case was registered in the Court of Special Judge (Narcotics) Karachi for the *Contravention Control Narcotics Substances Act, 1997*. (*Daily Times*)

Pakistan – Two passengers held at Lahore airport

The Federal Investigation Agency Immigration staff, claimed on April 12 to have arrested two passengers at the Allama Iqbal Airport for travelling on fake documents.

According to the FIA spokesman, Khizer Hayat tried to proceed to Milan (Italy) by flight PK-733 from Lahore by swapping a boarding card with another person who was waiting in the lounge.

In another case, an Afghan national was arrested for travelling on a fake Pakistani passport. His original name is Zia ur Rehman but he travelled from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan on the passport of Fazal Akbar and reached Lahore airport by flight number SV-738 on April 12.

Both passengers were sent to Anti Human Trafficking Circle Lahore for legal action. (*Pakistan Today*)

Pakistan – Man arrested for smuggling phones

Customs officials arrested a man at the Shaikh Zayed International Airport on April 26 for trying to smuggle 313 smartphones and 141 phone batteries from Dubai to Rahim Yar Khan. The man was sent on seven days physical remand on April 27. Police said the phones and batteries were worth Rs10.553 million.

Additional Collector Ghulam Mustafa, Deputy Collector Ali Malik, Assistant Collector Tanveer Ahmad addressed a press conference in Multan on April 27.

They said the culprit, Rizwan, was a resident of Karachi. He had made several trips abroad in the last few months, the customs officials said. They said the Customs Department had received a tip-off in this regard. "We are now trying to ascertain whether Rizwan was working with an international network of smugglers."

Airport officials said the authorities have taken two Customs officials, a superintendent and a customs inspector, in custody over abetment suspicions. (*The Express Tribune*)

Pakistan – Pakistan Customs foils drug smuggling bid to Colombo

Pakistan Customs authorities have foiled a bid to smuggle at least 3.4 kilogrammes of light brown heroin powder at the Jinnah International Airport in the provincial metropolis.

Additional Collector Feroz Alam Junejo of Customs Preventive, JIAP Karachi and Deputy Collector Amjad Aman Leghari of Jinnah International Airport Karachi said that on April 30th, customs staff at international departure hall of Jinnah International Airport, Karachi while acting on tip off, intercepted a passenger identified as Raz Moner.

He said that the scrutiny of his travel documents revealed that the passenger was traveling to Colombo by Flight no UL184 from Karachi adding that the said passenger was asked to declare whether he was carrying any contraband goods as such narcotics or foreign currency etc in his baggage or on his person, to which he denied.

He said that owing to information and strong suspicion, his baggage comprising of three card board cartons and one hand trolley bearing Echolac brand were examined and found that one card board carton and a trolley bag contained personal belongings and various decorative mirrors and Islamic tughras whereas two card board cartons were also found that contained Islamic tughras and decorative mirrors but did not recovered any contraband stuff from the contents of two cartons.

However, when cardboard cartons were made empty and found abnormal in weight and structure.

He said that the cardboard cartons were opened and recovered 3.4 kilogrammes of light brown heroin powder duly concealed in the corrugated paper pasted with polythene material at the bottom of the two cartons, adding that the recovered heroin powder was tested with a Narco Testing Kit, which gave positive inference of heroin. The official said that the recovered heroin powder was seized along with containers and traveling documents of the passenger after completion of legal formalities.

The official further said that the accused passenger Raz Moner was served with notice of arrest and was arrested adding that further investigation is in progress. (*Daily Times*)

Philippines – BI on alert over foreign terrorists entry into PHL

Bureau of Immigration (BI) Commissioner Ronaldo Geron has ordered its newly designated intelligence head to tighten the security and monitoring of all foreign nationals arriving in the country.



He issued the directive to Intel Chief Rommel De Leon to ensure that wanted persons from friendly nations and foreign terrorists with links to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria will not use the Philippines as their hiding place and jump-off point to their foreign targets.

For his part, the new chief of the Intelligence Division vowed to assign skilled and experienced immigration agents in all international airports and seaports to screen arriving foreigners and prevent the entry of suspected international terrorists and wanted foreign persons.

With this, De Leon reported that they intercepted a Korean national wanted in his home country for various crimes, including extortion and blackmailing his countrymen living in the Philippines.

The fugitive was identified as Choi Yeong-ik, who also used fraudulent Philippine passport under Filipino name Bryan Cruz Chua. He also claimed that he was born in Motiong, Samar, to gain easy entry at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The BI reported that the foreigner also holds a Philippine driver's license, while his Philippine passport was allegedly issued in Cebu province.

Meanwhile, the BI also held a Chinese national at the NAIA terminal 1 April 7. He was identified as Mark Chin Perez Lao, bound for Tel Aviv, Israel. He refused to divulge his real Chinese identity. Lao's passport turned out to be fraudulent when an immigration officer entered the passport in the newly installed passport reading machine. The passport revealed only three digits instead of eight numerical digits.

Both are detained at the BI detention facility in Taguig City, pending deportation proceedings. (*Manila Bulletin*)

Philippines – Live corals seized at NAIA

Customs and Fisheries officials seized live corals and anemones stored at a warehouse of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport that were about to be shipped to Taiwan.



Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources on April 22 said that the corals, listed under *Endangered Species Act*, are banned for export while the anemones require permit under the Revised Fisheries Code.

Customs Collector Edgar Macabeo said that 203 live corals and 28 anemones were placed inside nine boxes that weighed about 142 kilograms and declared as "tropical fish" were awaiting to be loaded to a Cebu Pacific flight 5J310 for Taiwan when examined.

Customs-NAIA police chief Reggie Tuazon said the live corals, worth about a P1 million were consigned to Chen Shih of Sanchong District, New Taipei City and was shipped by Deep Blue Sea Aquatic Trading in Paranaque City. (*The Manila Times*)

Portugal – Brit tourists held in Algarve for smuggling cocaine in shampoo bottles

Two Brit tourists have been arrested on suspicion of drug smuggling after jetting to the Algarve with cocaine hidden in bottles of shampoo. The pair, a woman aged 29 and a man aged 32, were held after getting off a flight from the East Midlands at Faro Airport. Portuguese cops are thought to have received a tip-off from authorities in Britain.

The pair - now believed to be official suspects or *arguidos* - are thought to have been travelling in a group of around six British tourists including a baby and an elderly man who had flown out to Portugal from Britain for a four-day holiday.



Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras

The Portuguese Immigration Office SEF confirmed the arrests, saying: "The SEF intercepted on April 24 at Faro Airport two passengers suspected of transporting drugs on a flight from the UK. After coordination with Customs, the existence of drugs was confirmed, namely cocaine hidden in shampoo bottles in one of the passenger's luggage.

"This joint operation resulted in the handing-over of a 32-year-old man and a 29-year-old woman so they could be made *arguidos*."

A source close to the inquiry said the shampoo belonged to the Brit woman and the luggage the man. They were expected to be hauled before a judge April 26 but were instead told they could carry on with their holiday provided they left police their addresses in Portugal and the UK.

Both suspects are said to be English and had arrived from the East Midlands with around five friends or relatives including a baby and old man for a four-day holiday.

The insider said: "In one bag they were carrying 10 bottles of shampoo which were flagged by English authorities who tipped off Portuguese counterparts. The drugs were detected in one of the bottles and they were arrested."

Puerto Rico – Previously deported felon arrested by CBP traveling to Boston

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers arrested on April 27 a previously removed felon attempting to board a flight to Boston.



Canada Border
Services Agency

Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada



Euclides Suarez-Holguin, a citizen of the Dominican Republic appeared on April 28 before the US District Court Magistrate Judge Camille Velez-Rive to face charges for violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326(a)(2)(b)(2), for re-entering after a previous removal that was subsequent to a conviction for commission of an aggravated felony.

Mr. Suarez-Holguin was encountered at the Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in Carolina, Puerto Rico, attempting to board a domestic flight bound to Logan International Airport in Massachusetts. When the CBP officers, who were conducting immigration inspections, asked for identification he presented a passport of the Dominican Republic, with no valid visa.

In secondary inspection, a biometric database revealed that Mr. Suarez-Holguin was convicted in 2005 at the New York County Superior Court for Criminal Possession Narcotic Drug-4th degree and sentenced to a five year term of probation. On September 18, 2009, he was convicted at the Bronx County Superior Court for Criminal Sale Controlled Substance-5th degree and sentenced to two years' incarceration, after which he was deported.

In 2011 he was apprehended by Border Patrol Agents at Falfurrias, Texas and was convicted in the United States District Court Southern District of Texas, and sentenced to sixteen months' incarceration and three years' Supervised Release. Mr. Suarez-Holguin admitted that he re-entered the US via Puerto Rico in November 2015.

CBP field operations officers presented the case to the US Attorney's Office for prosecution. If convicted, Mr. Suarez-Holguin could be fined, imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.

Qatar – Customs foils bid to smuggle marijuana through airport

The General Authority of Customs (GAC) has foiled an attempt to smuggle 6.4kg of marijuana through Hamad International Airport (HIA).

The illicit drugs were found with an Asian traveller transiting HIA on a journey from his home country to another GCC country. "The GAC officer suspected a bag of the traveller and ordered a full search of his luggage, leading to the discovery of the hidden drug," Ajab al-Qahtani, director of HIA Customs, said.



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Marijuana was found in 11 packets wrapped in plastic bags and hidden among other items such as dried fish and snacks. The issue was referred to the security department concerned to take the necessary legal procedures against the traveller.

GAC president Ahmed bin Ali al-Mohannadi thanked the officer who foiled the smuggling attempt and honoured him for his alertness in discharging his duty. He further affirmed that GAC officers are an import asset for the department and protects the country against such harmful attempts. (*Gulf Times*)

Qatar – Qatar customs seize 18kg of marijuana and 84 gold bars

Customs officials in Qatar confiscated a huge amount of narcotic substances from a personal shipment from an African country recently.

In an unrelated event the customs authorities caught an Asian passenger trying to smuggle in 6.5kg gold bars hidden inside his clothes through the Hamad International Airport (HIA).



The drug haul happened due to a diligent cargo employee who felt something suspicious about the personal cargo from African, which was packaged in a very unusual way.

This prompted the authorities to cross-examine the cargo with special devices and later conducted a thorough manual inspection, during which they discovered 17.8kg of marijuana inside food containers. Food items were mixed with dried marijuana fibre to dupe the authorities. But due to prompt action the attempt was thwarted.

The gold bars were seized from an Asian traveller by customs officials at the HIA. An Asian traveller coming from one of the Gulf states declared a small amount of gold and was allowed to do the proper paperwork for transiting it through Qatar.

While he was doing his paperwork, an inspector felt suspicious about the contents of the bag and on inspection found small wrapped parcels hidden inside the clothes at the bottom of the bag. There were more such parcels on the right and left pockets of his bag. 84 gold pieces weighing 6.5 kg with were seized from his bag, which will value in excess of QR600,000 at the current market price. (*The Peninsula*)

Qatar – Customs seize 11kg of marijuana at Hamad International Airport

Customs officials seized a huge amount of drugs from an Asian traveller at the Hamad International Airport recently.



One of the customs inspectors on duty became suspicious of a bag bought in by the Asian traveller. When the officials inspected the bag they found that it was full of dry pepper. On further inspection they found 11kg of marijuana hidden inside the packets of dried pepper.



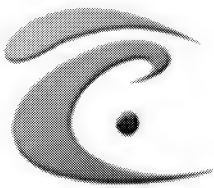
The customs department has transferred the case and the accused to concerned authorities.

Ahmed bin Ali Al Mohannadi, Chairman of the General Authority of Customs, honoured the inspector, whose alertness foiled the smuggling, and stressed on continuing the efforts to protect the country.

The General Authority of Customs is providing their employees at all their ports with continuous training in order to enhance their professionalism. (*The Peninsula*)

Ras al Khaimah – Man sentenced to 15 years in jail for smuggling heroin

A man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for swallowing 127 heroin capsules in an attempt to smuggle them through a UAE airport. The man, from an unnamed Asian country, will be deported following his sentence, handed down by Ras Al Khaimah Criminal Court.

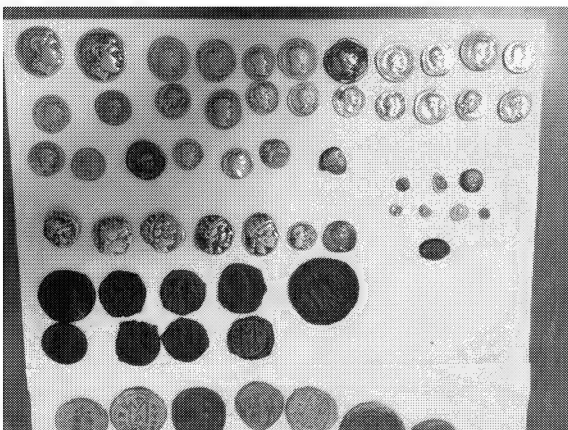


The suspect asked for help from authorities after he felt a sharp pain in his stomach and confessed to swallowing a lethal dose of the drug. He was transported to hospital where an operation was performed to extract the capsules, which he swallowed while boarding the plane in his country.

During investigations, the suspect admitted to smuggling drugs to the UAE to sell them. (*The National*)

Romania – Romanian police confiscate Byzantine coins from British man

Romanian border police have confiscated 71 Byzantine coins from a British citizen travelling from Turkey to



Romania.

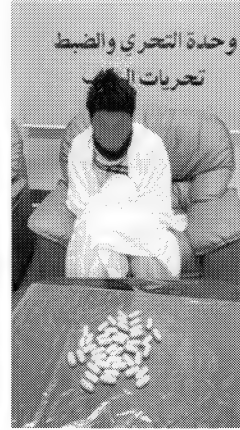
Police said they found the coins in five plastic bags on April 28 in the luggage of a 43-year-old man as he crossed into Romania from Bulgaria on a bus. He told police he bought them from a bazaar in Turkey but was unable to provide documents to justify his claims.

The metal coins have details on them indicating they date to the Byzantine era and are likely to be objects of cultural patrimony. Byzantine coins were used between the 5th and 15th centuries.

Romanian police are investigating the man on suspicion of illegally possessing objects that are cultural patrimony.

Saudi Arabia – Jeddah airport customs foil bid to smuggle 65,265 amphetamine pills

Customs officials foiled an attempt to smuggle 65,265 amphetamine pills into Saudi Arabia via King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah. The officials became suspicious of a shipment and screened it to discover the narcotics pills hidden inside.



In a separate operation, the customs officials screened a passenger at the airport and discovered 95 capsules in his abdomen, containing 699 g of heroin.

Saudi Arabia – Saudis seize 2,800 abortion pills at airport

Saudi customs authorities seized 2,800 abortion pills which two passengers tried to smuggle into the Gulf Kingdom.

Inspectors at the airport in the Western Red Sea port of Yanbu found 1,792 pills in the baggage of an expatriate passenger arriving in the city. A few hours later, they found 1,008 abortion pills in the bag of another passenger at the same airport. The two passengers were arrested but not identified. (Emirates 24/7)

Singapore – About 4kg of cannabis seized at Woodlands Checkpoint. substantial amount of drugs seized in follow-up operation. Six Singaporeans arrested

On 14 April 2016 at about 8am, a Singapore-registered car was stopped by officers from the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) for checks upon arrival at Woodlands Checkpoint.

In the course of inspection, ICA officers found four blocks of cannabis weighing about 4kg and one bundle of 'Ice' weighing about 310g. The driver, a 25-year-old male Singaporean, and the seized exhibits were referred to the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) for further investigations.

From swift follow-up investigations, CNB officers arrested a total of three suspected traffickers – two male Singaporeans aged 25 and 26 and a 26-year-old female Singaporean – and two suspected abusers – two male Singaporeans aged 24 and 32. A substantial variety of drugs were seized from the follow-up operation, including about 2.1kg of cannabis, 380g of 'Ice', 152 'Ecstasy' tablets, 102 Erimin-5 tablets and 18g of heroin.



Investigations into the drug activities of all arrested suspects are ongoing. Under the *Misuse of Drugs Act*, those convicted of trafficking in more than 500g of cannabis; and those convicted of trafficking in more than 250g of methamphetamine, may face the death penalty.

South Africa – Pakistani national appears in court for attempted bribery

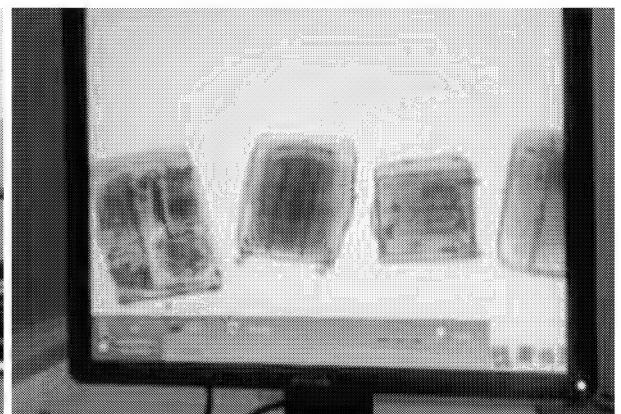
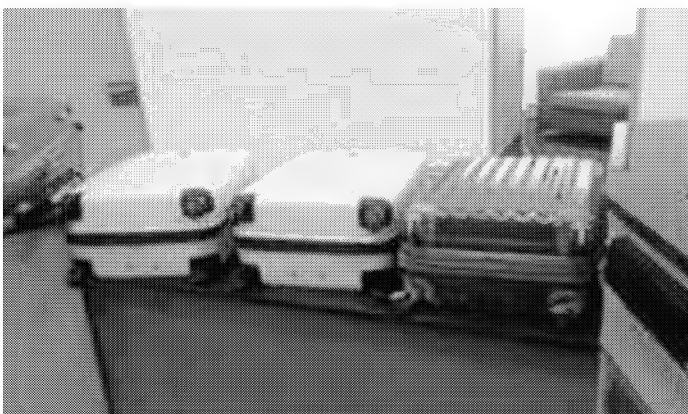
An attempt by a Pakistani national to bribe a customs official into allowing him to enter the country with forbidden fruits has backfired after he was arrested by a task team of detectives from the South African Police Service.

Osman Mia, 35, was arrested by the detective task team, which investigates crime and corruption at the airport, on April 10 and has appeared in the Kempton Park Magistrate's Court April 13 for attempting to bribe a customs official with cash amounting to two hundred rand.

Shortly after landing at the OR Tambo International Airport, Mia failed to declare that he was in possession of Mangoes, something that is supposed to be declared. When the customs officials found out he decided to grease the official's palms by offering money, a move that was rebuffed and led to his arrest.

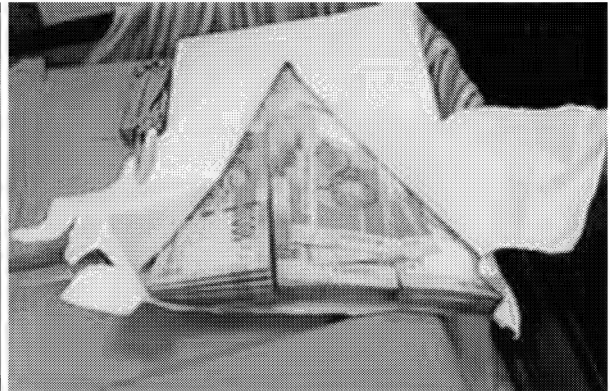
South Africa – Customs officials intercept R7.9m in currency bust at Durban airport

South African Revenue Services (SARS) Customs officials intercepted a consignment of currency worth R7.9 million (\$676,630) at King Shaka International Airport in Durban April 29, SARS revealed. Customs officers became suspicious when five suitcases scheduled for loading at the departing Emirates flight to Dubai were being removed from the international arrivals hall.



"Upon investigation, it was established the owner of the suitcases was not processed to depart by Immigration due to a problem with his passport thus resulting in him and his suitcases (five) being pulled off the flight. Thus Customs officials directed the luggage for a search.

"The suitcases were very heavy which made the officers suspicious of the contents. The first suitcase was searched and envelopes packed with South African bank notes were found. The other suitcases were then scanned and the images of four suitcases were consistent with the suitcase found with money.



"One suitcase was found to contain personal effects. The search revealed the four suitcases to be full of envelopes packed with South African bank notes with a total of R7,909,200 in the suitcases," SARS said.

Spain – Police arrest Mr Big: Smuggler is caught after suspiciously large bulge in his pants turns out to be 1lb of cocaine



A smuggler was caught trying to enter Spain after a suspiciously large bulge in his pants turned out to be a stash of drugs. The 43-year-old had attached a plastic container to his privates with more than a pound of cocaine inside - but was searched as he flew into Madrid Airport from Costa Rica.

Officers examined his hand luggage and found nothing before turning their attention to his trousers and the large object between his legs. The bulge was still noticeable - as a photo issued by police revealed - despite the fact he was wearing a pair of black boxer shorts over pants with a floral design on them.

Spanish police couldn't resist the obvious pun as they tweeted a picture of the trafficker alongside the message: 'A suspicious package between his legs.' But the unnamed detainee wasn't laughing on April 4 after going before a judge and being told he faced a prison sentence of up to three years if found guilty of drugs smuggling. A judicial probe is ongoing. (*Daily Mail*)

Spain – Brit drug dealer jailed for six years after smuggling 35,000 ecstasy tablets into Ibiza

A Brit drug dealer has been sentenced to six years in jail and ordered to pay a €562,000 (£436,000) fine after admitting trying to smuggle a record 35,000 ecstasy tablets into Ibiza. Ian Francis Smith, 38, was arrested after going to the island airport to retrieve a lost suitcase.



Airport police discovered seven bags containing the drugs inside after asking him to open the case up. Officers subsequently discovered €2,000, believed to have come from the sale of drugs, during a search of his hire car.

He appeared in a provincial criminal court April 28 on the neighbouring island of Majorca to admit to the drugs crime and agree to a plea bargain which saw him receive a reduced sentence. Prosecutors wanted him jailed for seven years and five months and fined €1.1 million if convicted after a trial.

The fine he has ended up being hit with is the amount prosecutors say he would have made from selling the

drugs on the party island to the tourists who flock there every summer.

Irish-born Smith was arrested on July 31 last year after going to pick up a lost suitcase he had checked onto a Vueling flight from Amsterdam a week earlier.

State prosecutors said in an indictment handed to the court before the scheduled trial: "He planned to sell these drugs on the streets for a market value of €562,000. In the search of the hire car he went to the airport with, €2,000 from previous drug deals were found."

Initial reports at the time said Smith's suitcase had been collected by airport workers and put into storage when he left it on a luggage carousel after arrival. (*Daily Star*)

Sri Lanka – Kotahena resident fined at Katunayake airport

A woman who attempted to smuggle a stock of jewellery to Bangalore, India was taken into custody by Customs officials at the Katunayake international airport. The stock of jewellery that was to be smuggled weighed 700 grammes and was valued at Rs.4 million (\$35,120).

The stock of gold was confiscated by the state, and the woman was released after being subject to a fine of Rs.100,000 (\$878) following investigations into the incident. The woman is a resident of Colombo 13. (News 1st)

Sri Lanka – Pakistani with Rs. 87m. worth heroin nabbed at BIA

A Pakistani who tried to smuggle in a large stock of heroin concealed in his baggage was nabbed by Customs officials at the Bandaranaike International Airport April 25. The contraband had a street value of over Rs.87 million, a Customs official said.

Customs Narcotics Control Unit official, on suspicion, searched a passenger and his baggage and found 8.7 kilograms of heroin hidden in the false bottom of his main baggage. Additional Director General of Customs Leslie Gamini said the passenger had come from Lahore via Doha and arrived at 3.20 p.m.



The contraband taken into custody was contained in four packets. It the biggest detection of heroin by Customs this year. Customs Narcotics Control Unit director Kapila Ruwan Pathirana and his team are conducting investigations. The suspect was detained for further inquiries. (*Daily Mirror*)

Switzerland – Swiss Border Guards arrest key suspect in Cologne sex assaults

One of the key suspects in New Year Cologne sex assaults was spotted during shoplifting in southern Germany and after crossing the Swiss border was arrested by the local border guards on April 27, German police said in a statement.



The 19-year-old suspect along with another 24-year-old man were spotted in the German frontier city of Konstanz where they shoplifted cigarettes and groceries worth \$27. They were reportedly followed by an undercover security worker of the shop across the Swiss border who later alerted the Swiss Border Guard.

One of the border guards recognized the 19-year-old man as one of the main perpetrators of the New Year's Eve sex attacks in Cologne which was confirmed by subsequent verification

of his personal details by German law enforcement, police added.

Now German police in Konstanz are waiting for the extradition of the suspect. Prosecutors of the Swiss city of Kreuzlingen have already issued an extradition warrant.

Taiwan – Thai man caught in bid to take NT\$2.4 million in cash to Bangkok

A Thai man trying to smuggle NT\$2.4 million (US\$74,220) out of Taiwan was intercepted at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, aviation police reported April 4.



Police said the man was scheduled to take a Thai Airways flight to Bangkok departing at 8:05 p.m. but was found to be carrying the cash in his luggage in NT\$1,000 bills. The Thai national, who claimed he wanted to carry the money out of Taiwan to shop and had no bad intentions, missed his flight because of the long time it took to count the money, which was later returned to him.

Taipei Customs said passengers are allowed to carry up to NT\$100,000 out of Taiwan, and must apply to the central bank for approval if the amount is higher than that. For foreign currencies, passengers can carry up to US\$10,000 and must register higher amounts with customs. (Focus Taiwan News Channel)

Taiwan – Lawmakers allow ‘Republic of Taiwan’ passport stickers

Lawmakers on April 6 revoked legislation that prevents pro-Taiwanese independence activists from putting “Republic of Taiwan” stickers on their Republic of China passports. The Legislature’s National Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee removed Article Three of the *Enforcement Rules of the Passport Act* on April 6 after several opposition lawmakers proposed an initiative to do so.



The article, which originally came into effect in January, prohibited Taiwanese citizens from affixing “Republic of Taiwan” stickers to the covers of their R.O.C. passports. Violation of the law would have resulted in revocation of the passport by government authorities.

Asked to comment, Director-General Kung Chung-chen of the Foreign Ministry’s Bureau of Consular Affairs that is in charge of passport issuance, said that the ministry respects the lawmakers’ decision. He explained that the law was only meant to protect the rights of Taiwanese citizens when they are

traveling overseas since the use of the stickers could undermine the credibility of the country’s passport.

There have been recent incidents in which Taiwanese passport holders using such stickers were denied entry by foreign countries, including Singapore, Kung said. According to the Foreign Ministry, a total of 15 cases of denied entry into Macao have been reported since January due to the use of the “Republic of Taiwan” stickers by R.O.C. passport holders.

He stressed that the law was not intended to target only users of “Republic of Taiwan” stickers, but all citizens who modify their official travel documents, which could lead to suspicion of the authenticity of the documents. He stressed that the ministry will continue to remind travelers not to put stickers of any kind on their passports, especially on the document’s front page, to avoid causing trouble during overseas travel. (*The China Post*)

Thailand – Actress may pay a price for showing off online

Thai actress Peechaya “Min” Wattanamontree might face taxes for importing several expensive brand-name bags after the subject of whether she paid customs duties was raised on social media.



The discussion arose after the actress travelled to Singapore to purchase high-end Hermès bags as an advance birthday present for herself, and posted photographs of herself posing with nine boxes and three big Hermès bags.

The photographs raised questions on how she managed to bring so many high-end bags through customs and whether she had paid customs duty as required by law. For instance, Hermès’ famous Birkin bag costs at least 5,900 euros in Europe, where it sells for its lowest price.

A video clip reportedly shows Peechaya entering a Hermès store and having a shop assistant open a box revealing a Hermès Kelly bag. The smallest

and cheapest Hermès Kelly goes for about Bt340,000 excluding tax, and the most expensive version goes for Bt440,000.

Kulit Sombatsiri, director-general of the Customs Department, said authorities have contacted Peechaya over the issue, adding that she will be invited to clarify the issue. “If there is evidence that duty needs to be paid, then the tariff plus fine will be levied,” Kulit said.

According to Kulit, people bringing in items worth more than Bt20,000 in total combined value were subject to import tax and duties. When a passenger comes into Thailand through any airport, the Customs Department has the right to examine their baggage.

Meanwhile, Peechaya’s father Supat denied claims that his daughter had brought in nine Hermès bags worth more than Bt10 million. “Min brought the bags for herself on the occasion of her birthday and was not evading tax,” he said. (*The Nation*)

Thailand – Drug mule busted with 1.8kg of chocolate cocaine

A 21-year-old Thai woman who attempted to smuggle 1.8 kilograms of cocaine disguised as chocolate through Phuket International Airport was arrested by customs officers April 28. The chance discovery by officers was made at 4:15am after the woman, named as Oatchara Wikho, arrived in Phuket on a plane from Dubai.



The cocaine had been molded into pellets and disguised as candy in individual wrappers, which Ms Oatchara carried in a duty free bag from Dubai Airport. The cocaine was estimated to have a street value of more than 5.4 million baht. The airport’s new head of customs, Hattaya Tipayawat, admitted that disguising drugs as chocolates and brazenly walking through customs with them in a carrier bag was a novel technique.

"She was just carrying the drugs in bags like she was any other passenger," said Ms Hattaya. "And the cocaine wraps were mixed in with other wraps of real chocolate." Ms Oatchara claimed not to know that she was carrying drugs. "She said that she was hired for 150,000 baht to go Dubai and pick up something to bring back to Phuket," Ms Hattaya said.

Ms Oatchara said that she was hired by a man living in Bangkok, who she believed to be a Nigerian, who went by the name of 'Michael'. "He paid for my ticket. I didn't know what was inside the wrappers. I have never done this before," said Ms Oatchara.

"Michael told me to call him after I arrived in Phuket and that someone would come and pick up the stuff from me. Unfortunately, I got caught," she said. Customs officers had Ms Oatchara try calling 'Michael' but there was no answer.

Ms Oatchara was charged with possession of Category 2 drugs with intent to sell and later taken to Tah Chat Chai Police Station for further processing. Ms Hattaya said that the pellets of cocaine appeared to have been packaged so they could be ingested by a smuggler and later excreted. (*Phuket Gazette*)

Trinidad and Tobago – Jamaicans aren't feeling the neighbourly love from Trinidad and Tobago's airport border control

Jamaica's relationship with its neighbours to the base of the Caribbean archipelago, Trinidad and Tobago, has been an uneasy one for at least the past decade in one specific area — it believes that its citizens are too often denied entry and unfairly treated when arriving at Trinidad's Piarco International Airport.



This concern usually leads to discussions in the Jamaican blogosphere about the ongoing trade gap between the two Caribbean Community (CARICOM) nations, conflating the two separate issues of trade and immigration. It also fuels a general public perception in Jamaica that its nationals are not particularly welcome in some other CARICOM territories, Trinidad in particular.

Over 150 Jamaicans have been denied entry to the twin-island republic this year alone — a higher rate of refusals than in 2015, so far. Moreover, Trinidad noted that it had approximately 19,500 illegal Jamaican immigrants in 2014. While efforts have been made at intervals over the past decade — including the signing of a joint agreement to facilitate easier trade and freedom of movement signed by both foreign ministers in 2013 — problems persist. Since the 2013 agreement, further complaints of mistreatment at Trinidad's port of entry have been reported.

On March 21 this year, 12 Jamaicans arriving on two separate Caribbean Airlines flights were denied entry at Piarco Airport and deported the following day. Members of the group angrily accused Trinidadian immigration officials of treating them disrespectfully and not providing proper facilities for their overnight stay before they were made to return to Jamaica.

The Trinidad and Tobago Government disputed claims that the Jamaicans were ill-treated and maintained that the immigration officers' actions were in accordance with local immigration law, as they were "likely to become a charge on public funds".

Jamaica's new minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, asked those who felt they were wronged to provide the ministry with full details so that it could properly investigate. The ministry reiterated — on several occasions — that there is a mechanism in place for Jamaicans to report any alleged breaches of their rights as CARICOM nationals. In an April 13 statement, Johnson Smith noted that while talks are ongoing, the Jamaican government remains concerned and is asking for "specific timelines" in which its Trinidadian counterparts should address key issues arising from the Jamaican citizens' detention and deportation. (*Global Voices*)

Trinidad and Tobago – \$.5M bail for woman charged with cocaine trafficking

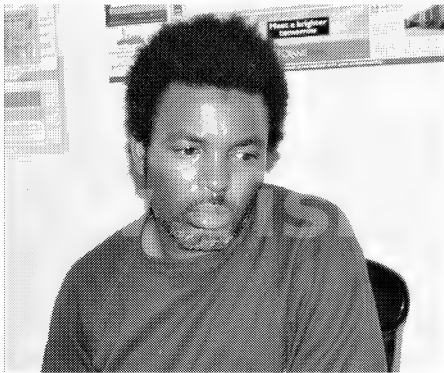
An Arima woman, who was arrested at the Piarco International Airport on April 17 as she was about to board a flight to London with 900 grammes of cocaine hidden in her underwear, has been granted bail in the sum of \$.5 million.

Maria La Coa, 42, of Quesnel Street, Arima, appeared before Senior Magistrate Indrani Cedeno in the Arima Magistrates Court on April 20, charged with trafficking cocaine. It is also alleged that a search warrant was executed at La Coa's home where more cocaine and cash were seized by police.

La Coa was also charged with six counts of conspiracy, dating as far back as 2013. The drug bust was part of an ongoing investigation into a multi-national drug ring and investigators say persons in other countries have been arrested in connection with conspiracy to traffic the illicit drug. La Coa will reappear in court on May 19.

Uganda – Uganda to deport Tanzanian over forged passport

Uganda is in the process of deporting a 39-year-Tanzanian who was found with a fake Ugandan passport in Iran. Paul Kaselo Ollaka, 39 entered Uganda on April 20 aboard a Turkish Airline from Iran.



The Iranians deported him back to Uganda after serving an 11 year-jail term for trafficking in illegal drugs and being in possession of fake travel documents.

The Spokesperson of the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration, Jacob Siminyu said that Kaselo's passport was in the names of Paul Kafero but carrying his true passport photos. Siminyu said Uganda will deport Kaselo back to Tanzania that will decide his fate since he has already served a long jail term in Iran.

He also explained that Uganda stopped using the type of passports which Kaselo was arrested with in 2004 because they were very easy to forge. (*New Vision*)

United Kingdom – Apprentices at the UK border prompt security fears

The Home Office is hiring apprentices to man British passport controls for the first time, leading to allegations the move could undermine security. The UK Border Force has advertised for 150 apprentices aged at least 18 to work at Heathrow and Stansted airports.

Sources inside the agency said there were concerns a far shorter training period – and a lack of on-the-job insight – could result in security lapses.

Although Britain is outside the Schengen area – which allows passport-free travel in other European Union states – insiders said the move to hire apprentices amounted to a “downgrading” of experienced staff whose duties include checking passports against terrorist “watch lists”.

“There are serious concerns that with less training and less experience this will have an impact on national security,” said the source, who declined to be named. “It makes the issue of apprentices in Britain something of an open goal. It is asking for trouble in the current climate.”

The apprentices will be hired on an 18-month fixed term contract on a salary of £17,721-a-year, plus shift pay, and must be at least 18 years old. They must possess a minimum of five GCSEs at A* to C grades, or must have previously worked in the police or Armed forces.

The UK Border Force job advertisement says their role will be “operating primary check points and making decisions on allowing or prohibiting the movement of passengers”. It adds the new recruits “could also be involved in strategic objectives such as counter-terrorism and human trafficking”.

Four days after the Brussels terrorist attack in March it emerged that Belgium's border force was placed in special measures because guards had failed to check suspect passengers from high-risk countries against the counter-terrorism database. The Belgian government was ordered to rectify its “deficient” border regime in an extensive list of recommendations issued by the European Council on February 29.

It emerged that at Brussels South Charleroi airport, which runs budget flights to Algeria, Tunisia and Turkey, border officers were deployed who had not passed their basic training and without undergoing a mandatory daily briefing on the latest security threats.

The airport's guard was instructed to "intensify" the spot checks of passengers and passports entering the airport from "high-risk areas" against the EU-wide terror database, the Schengen Information System. They were also ordered to conduct "more accurate" identification of passengers who matched the "risk profile" of a possible terrorist fighter.

The order underlined fears that one weak link in the Schengen system of borderless travel puts the security of the entire bloc at risk. (*The Telegraph*)

United Kingdom – Teenage couple caught smuggling tobacco into Leeds Bradford Airport

A teenage couple were caught trying to smuggle tobacco valued at more than £11,000 in unpaid duty through Leeds Bradford Airport, a court heard.

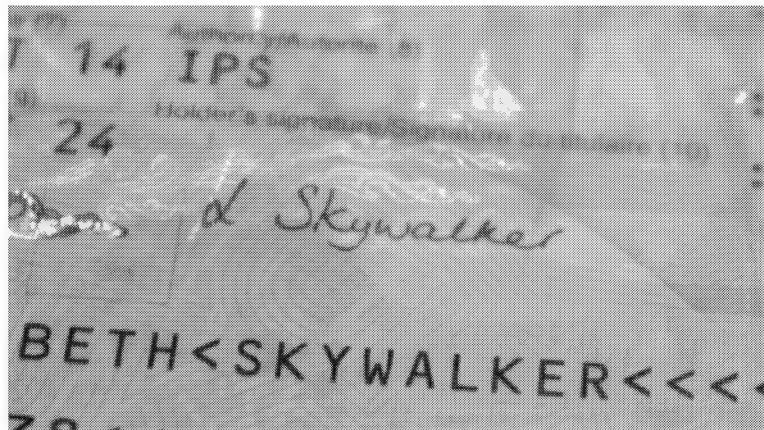
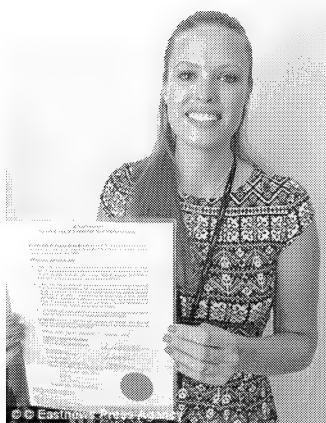
Kamil Osinski, 19, and partner Paulina Prusakiewicz, also 19, both of Torun, Poland, arrived at the airport on a flight from Tenerife on July 24, 2015. Inside their luggage, Border Force officers discovered 34,420 cigarettes and 15 kilos of hand-rolling tobacco.

The case was passed to HMRC to investigate and, during interview, Prusakiewicz said an unnamed male, who knew she was going on holiday, had given her money to buy the tobacco. Osinski replied "no comment" to all questions.

Both defendants pleaded guilty to the fraudulent evasion of excise duty, totalling £11,340.32 when they appeared at Leeds Magistrates' Court and were each sentenced to 16 weeks in prison, suspended for 12 months, by District Judge David Kitson. (*Wharfedale & Aireborough Observer*)

United Kingdom – Star Wars fan refused a passport when she changed her name to SKYWALKER has had to swap back by deed poll before authorities agreed to give her one

A Star Wars fan who was refused a passport after she changed her name to Skywalker by deed poll has been forced to revert to her original name to get a new one. Laura Matthews, 30, has been embroiled in a long-running battle with the Passport Office since 2014 when she applied for a new travel document and has made a number of complaints.



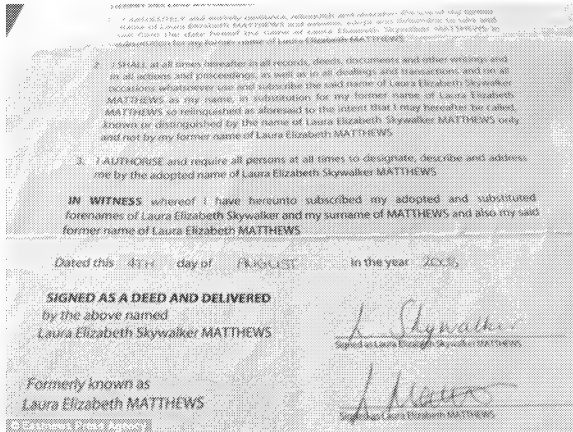
Ms Matthews originally added Skywalker as a middle name in 2008, 'for a laugh' after joking with friends about her love of lead character Luke Skywalker. In July 2014, when she came to renew her passport, authorities took eight weeks to reject her application - citing copyright infringement - causing her to miss her summer trip to Amsterdam.

At the time Ms Matthews, from Southend, Essex, said: 'It's absolutely ridiculous. They told me the issue was with my signature because L Skywalker is trademark. I have the same signature on my driving licence, bank cards and

everything else. How can everybody else be happy with that signature, apart from the passport office? Luke Skywalker is a trademark but not my signature “L Skywalker”.

‘I never knew a little joke between friends was going to cause this many problems,’ she added.

A month after her original application, two years ago, a new passport arrived and she was told her signature ‘L Skywalker’ was valid on the document after all. But in a final twist in December that year Ms Matthews was contacted again and told the passport was issued in error and had been cancelled.



Ms Matthews has now reverted to her original name of Laura Elizabeth Matthews, because she said she had ‘no choice’ if she wanted to get a passport.

Last February Ms Matthews requested the information held on her by the Passport Office under the *Data Protection Act* and should have received the documents within 40 days - but she is still waiting for a response.

‘I want to find out if the decision they made about my name change was correct. Why will they not release the information? These are people we trust to do things properly and they’re not.’

A Home Office spokesperson said: ‘We are giving Miss Matthews’ complaint proper consideration and regret this has

taken longer than hoped. This is being progressed and we are looking to provide a full response at the earliest opportunity.’ (*Daily Mail*)

United Kingdom – Suspect passengers waved through border without immigration interviews

Eight in ten suspicious passengers waved through at one of Britain’s busiest airports are not interviewed by immigration officers despite concerns about them, a watchdog has revealed.



Border staff at Manchester airport are failing to abide by Home Office guidelines which say where there is a concern over someone’s reason for coming to the UK, they should be questioned further. Inspectors found that in 50 cases where such passengers were granted entry only ten were interviewed.

In 12 cases, there was no clear explanation as to why an officer had granted entry despite an “accumulation of negative evidence”, David Bolt, the chief inspector of borders and immigration, said. In one case, a man was allowed through despite lying to staff and concerns from America that he may use an alias.

The report also found that some staff were being used to supervise immigration functions without adequate training or knowledge while customs officers were pulled off their duties to help out.

Sniffer dogs are not being used effectively at Manchester airport and failed to detect any Class A drugs over an eight month period. However, they did find “cheese and sausages wrongly brought back by British holidaymakers”, the inspection report found. Inspectors said the hounds would be better used to target flights where they might discover “bushmeat” – such as meat from reptiles, amphibians and birds.

The report said heroin and cocaine were “very high priority” within air passengers and freight but between November 2014 and June 2015, no dog made a single detection of any Class A drug. It also found that passengers entering the red channel with something to declare had to phone for a Customs officer to attend but could leave before one turned up. It said senior managers had insisted work on contraband was more intelligence-led instead.

The borders inspection report examined 130 cases where concerns were raised by staff over the reasons for a passenger wanting to enter the UK at Manchester airport. Under guidelines they are supposed to provide more evidence and “generally” be interviewed.

Of the sample, 50 were refused after the majority had been interviewed further. However another 50 were granted entry of which only 10 were interviewed. The remaining 30 were granted temporary admission but only a third of those had been questioned further.

In one case a US national arrived in October with the equivalent of £37 and saying he had no family in the UK except an aunt. Officers then checked and discovered his mother lived here and US customs officers said he was known to use another name and had a travel history in the Middle East and Africa. Border staff believed he lacked credibility, had insufficient funds and had lied but after an interview was still allowed in to the UK.

In another a Chinese national who arrived on a visa changed his story as to the circumstances of his visit to the UK but was still granted entry. He went on to become an overstayer.

In a separate development, the House of Lords EU home affairs sub-committee was told an increasing number of unaccompanied children are seeking asylum in the UK, including some as young as six. The disclosure was made by an official from Kent County Council, which contains one of the main gateways for arriving migrants.

United Kingdom – Judge jails Stansted Airport opium smuggler for two years

A woman has been jailed for two years after she was caught trying to smuggle five kilos of opium through Stansted Airport, hidden in the false bottom of a suitcase.

On April 13, Ewelina Kukielka, 20, a Polish national of no fixed abode, was told by Judge Patricia Lynch QC at Chelmsford Crown Court: “Bringing drugs into the country is very serious. I take into account you’re very young yourself.”

Border Force officers discovered the class A drug on March 12 when Kukielka arrived on a flight from Turkey. She admitted smuggling the drug, which was worth thousands of pounds.

Robert Colover, prosecutor, said that her role was as a courier. “There was just under five kilos – the equivalent of half a kilo of heroin.” (*Herts & Essex Observer*)

United Kingdom – Man in court after 2kg of cocaine seized at Gatwick Airport

A man has appeared in court after 2kg of cocaine was found in a suitcase at Gatwick Airport, the Home Office has said.

A spokesman said Border Force officers discovered the Class A drug hidden in the false bottom of a suitcase on April 17. It was seized when a passenger was stopped after arriving on a flight from St Lucia, the spokesman added. The investigation has now been passed to the National Crime Agency.

A 40-year-old St Vincent man, Hudson Kenuet Rohan Prescod, has been charged with importing a Class A drug, the Home Office said. Prescod, of no fixed UK address, appeared at Croydon Magistrates Court on April 18 and was remanded in custody to appear at Croydon Crown Court on May 23. (*Mid Sussex Times*)

United Kingdom – Border security: Guards ‘lack power to stop returning jihadis’

British border guards are virtually powerless to stop and detain Britons they suspect of returning from jihad or terrorism training, a whistle-blower has disclosed

UK Border Force guards have “zero discretion” to detain and interview travellers trying to re-enter Britain if they hold a UK passport and have not been “flagged” by police or security services. It means the UK border has a po-

tentially fatal flaw in relation to “cleanskin” jihadis, who have never come to the attention of police but could go on to commit atrocities on British soil.

The *Terrorism Act* 2000 sets out how immigration officers could be granted the power to “stop, question and detain” anyone they believe is “concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism”. However, these powers have never been conferred on immigration and borders staff.

The Home Office whistle-blower, said it was a “glaring omission” that border guards have been forbidden from using the powers set out in Schedule 7 of the Act.

The whistle-blower said: “If we are satisfied they are British, their passport is genuine and their name is not ‘flagged’, we have no powers beyond that to stop them. They have conferred no specific powers under Schedule 7 of the *Terrorism Act* on immigration officers in arrivals halls. It would be unlawful for them to detain a Brit.”

They can only detain British travellers if their names appear on the “Warnings Index” database, they are wanted for arrest or are carrying contraband, such as illegal extremist literature. Other suspects whose behaviour, appearance or travel history raises concerns must be waved through the border.

The Home Office confirmed the Schedule 7 powers are not available to border guards but claimed the whistle-blower was “simply not correct”, insisting guards could refer suspects to the police for later investigation.

The source said he was concerned the failure to give border guards the anti-terror powers could lead to an obvious chance to stop a returning jihadi being missed. “It’s not enough to rely on laws which allow immigration officers to stop suspects who are on the anti-terror databases,” he said. “What about the ones the security services do not know about yet? Strangely enough, some people do things for the first time.”

A Home Office spokesman said: “The suggestions being made are simply not correct and fundamentally misunderstand the roles of Border Force and the police and the legislation covering their powers.

“Schedule 7 to the *Terrorism Act* 2000 is used by counter-terrorism police at UK ports to determine whether individuals are concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. The power, which can be used to examine British and non-British citizens, was used on more than 27,000 occasions in 2015.

“Border Force officers operating at passport control have not been designated to use Schedule 7. They can, and do, however, regularly refer potential subjects of interest to the police for examination. Border Force also have the powers to detain UK nationals who they think are liable to arrest or are known fugitives under the *UK Borders Act* 2007.” (*The Telegraph*)

United Kingdom – Young Dubliner caught smuggling €1.1m of cocaine

An Irishman caught trying to smuggle more than €1m worth of cocaine from Brazil into England has been jailed. Dubliner Graham Patrick Smith (22) was sentenced to five years by a court in England.



Smith was stopped by customs officials at Heathrow Airport in London and claimed he had travelled to Brazil for a friend's stag party. He was found to have concealed cocaine with a street value in Britain of £864,000 (€1,115,900) in his luggage.

Border Force officers stopped the Dubliner in the customs channels in the airport's Terminal 3 building on November 30 last. Smith had arrived on a flight from Sao Paulo and told the Border Force staff that he had travelled to the South American country to attend a friend's stag party.

During a search of his baggage, the officers found a number of sealed plastic bags that appeared to contain food. But when one of the plastic packages was cut open, a white-coloured powder was discovered inside. In the subsequent tests it was revealed to be cocaine. There was a total of six kilos of the drug in Smith's luggage.

The case was referred to the National Crime Agency's Border Policing Command and, following questioning, Smith was charged with attempting to import a Class A drug. Forensic tests carried out on the powder inside the case showed that it was cocaine with a purity of 73pc.

Smith, with an address at Westbourne Green, Clondalkin, Dublin, was brought before Isleworth Crown Court on April 22. The court was told that the six kilos of the drug found in his luggage would have had a UK street value of approximately £864,000 if cut and sold. Smith pleaded guilty to the offence. (*Sunday World*)

USA – Men smuggle cocaine into LAX

On the same day a JetBlue Airways flight attendant who tried to carry 70 pounds of cocaine onto a plane at LAX was due to appear in court, two former baggage handlers at the airport were arrested on April 5 for smuggling cocaine past security as part of a nationwide drug ring. Adrian Ponce, 27, and Alberto Preciado Gutierrez, 26, were also expected to make initial court appearances in downtown Los Angeles.



According to federal authorities, the pair were involved "in a nationwide conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute cocaine." Ponce and Gutierrez used airport credentials to smuggle cocaine past security and pass it along to third-party couriers who took the drugs aboard commercial flights to deliver to customers on the East Coast.

Prosecutors said authorities seized a kilogram of cocaine from Gutierrez on Dec. 16, 2015, in a Terminal 3 restroom at Los Angeles International Airport, where he was trying to pass the drugs to a man planning to fly to New York on a JetBlue flight. Ponce, who

was waiting for Gutierrez in a vehicle outside the terminal, was interviewed the next day and allegedly admitted that the pair took part in similar transactions on multiple occasions.

Gutierrez had been working for Swissport International at LAX, but he was fired by the company following the December drug seizure, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Ponce previously worked at LAX for a baggage-handling service that was recently acquired by Swissport. Both men face 10 years to life in prison if convicted of drug trafficking, prosecutors said.

Their arrests came on the same day that Marsha Gay Reynolds, 31, was set to make an initial appearance in Los Angeles for trying to smuggle 70 pounds of cocaine aboard a flight from LAX on March 18. (*Westside Today*)

USA – Federal Way man taken into custody for dangerous drugs at Peace Arch Port of Entry

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Peace Arch Port of Entry took a 36-year-old Federal Way man into custody when an outstanding National Crime Information Center warrant was found during a routine examination.

Fingerprints confirmed the NCIC warrant match for drug-related charges. The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office transported the man to their Bellingham facility to await extradition.

USA – Only 3 U.S. airports require employee security checks

Less than a month after a news outfit reported that dozens of airport employees around the country have potential ties to terrorists, officials from the Department of Homeland Security admit that only three airports in the United States require workers to undergo security checks. The astounding admission, delivered before Congress, comes on the heels of a number of cases involving gun and drug-smuggling schemes operated by airline employees at major airports, including those located in Atlanta, New York and San Francisco.

In all of the cases, airport workers used their security badges to access secured areas of their respective facilities without having to undergo any sort of check. As if this weren't bad enough, in March government records obtained by the media revealed that 73 employees at nearly 40 airports across the nation were flagged for ties to terror in a June 2015 report from the DHS Inspector General's Office.

The files identified two of them working at Logan International Airport in Boston, four at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and six at Seattle-Tacoma International in Washington State. Here's the government's explanation for letting the potential terrorists slip by; the Transportation Security Administration didn't have access to the terrorism-related database during the vetting process for those employees. You can't make this stuff up!

Now we learn that only three of the nation's 300 airports—Atlanta, Miami and Orlando—require employees to undergo security checks before work, even though there's an epidemic of illicit activity among this demographic. The unbelievable stat was delivered by DHS officials testifying at a Senate Commerce Committee hearing. In the aftermath of the Belgium terrorist attacks, the hearing was scheduled to address efforts in this country to prevent attacks on passenger and freight targets that could lead to mass casualties.

The head of TSA, Robert Neffenger, told lawmakers that the agency has increased the inspection of employees five-fold in the last five months but admitted improvements must be made and the nation's airports will provide a report by the end of the month assessing their vulnerabilities.

That still doesn't explain why only three of the country's airports require employees to undergo security checks a decade and a half after the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil. Apparently DHS can't afford it and doesn't really need it. At least that's what a little-known entity called the Aviation Security Advisory Committee determined last spring. Composed of individuals representing private-sector organizations affected by aviation security requirements, the committee typically meets four times a year and advises the TSA on aviation security matters.

The panel was established in 1989 after a terrorist attack on Pan Am flight 103 and members include representatives from various trade groups such as the Cargo Airline Association, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, the U.S. Travel Association and the Airport Consultants Council. These are the folks that are deciding crucial issues associated with airport security.

In a 2015 report the committee wrote that most airports can't afford daily employee screening and, even if they could, it wouldn't do much good. That's because full screening wouldn't "appreciably increase the overall system-wide protection," according to the committee's findings and "no single measure can provide broad-spectrum protection against risks or adversaries." Furthermore, this group of aviation advisors concluded that daily screening of airport workers "is incapable of determining a person's motivations, attitudes and capabilities to cause harm, among other limitations." Under that ridiculous argument, airport security would be eliminated altogether for everyone. (*Liberty News Now*)

USA – Guyanese man held at JFK with cocaine in jeans

A Guyanese man, Rajendra Ramrattan was held at the JFK Airport on April 6 with 550.7 grammes of cocaine in a pair of jeans.

According to court documents, Ramrattan arrived at JFK Airport on Caribbean Airlines flight 524 from Trinidad. He had travelled to Trinidad from Guyana. The documents said that Ramrattan was selected for an enforcement examination and in his suitcase, Customs and Border Protection officers found four plastic bags with a white substance in jeans in his suitcase. The substance field tested positive for cocaine.

Ramrattan was then arrested and read his rights. The court documents say that he stated that he had purchased around 500 grammes of cocaine in Guyana for US\$2,000 and was planning on selling the cocaine in the US.

USA – Stolen 28 years ago, CBP seizes classic red hot Ferrari

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at Los Angeles/Long Beach (LA/LB) Seaport complex intercepted and seized a red 1981 Ferrari 308 GTSi, destined to Poland, on April 8. It was stolen 28 years ago, has 45K miles and an estimated value of \$50K.



Falsely manifested as a “1982 Ferrari”, analysis of its purported vehicle identification number (VIN) revealed that the VIN was previously used for a 1982 Ferrari 308 GTS exported in 2005, from the U.S. to Norway via Germany.

“This VIN discrepancy is what ‘raised a red flag’ and prompted further scrutiny. Such keen attention to details by CBP officers is commendable, especially considering they process a daily average of 500 vehicles intended for export,” said CBP LA/LB Seaport Port Director Carlos Martel.

In partnership with the California Highway Patrol-Investigative Services Unit Investigator and National Insurance Crime Bureau Special Agent assigned to the Foreign Export and Recovery (FEAR) Outbound Team, a Ferrari

factory expert assisted with identifying the 1981 Ferrari. In actuality, this Ferrari’s original VIN was changed to that of the previously exported car’s VIN.

Its real VIN led to a police report showing that this Ferrari was stolen from a car consignment lot in Orange County, Calif., on July 19, 1987. The owner was compensated by his insurance company back then and wishes to remain anonymous.

USA – CBP revokes Global Entry membership; traveler fails to provide truthful declaration, results in loss of privileges



U.S. Customs and Border Protection revoked the Global Entry membership of a U.S. citizen who failed to make a truthful customs declaration after he arrived to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, April 9.

CBP agriculture specialists discovered more than five pounds of prohibited agricultural products in the Global Entry member’s luggage.

The traveler, 50, who was arriving from India, declared no agriculture-related items. However, when CBP agriculture specialists examined his luggage, they discovered more than four pounds of rice and over a pound of raw peanuts. These products are prohibited from entering into the United States because as they could introduce harmful pests and plant diseases associated from India.

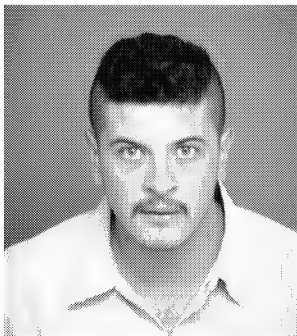
As a result, the traveler was issued a \$500 civil penalty and his Global Entry membership was revoked.



USA – CBP catches fugitive from 2012 California homicide trying to use altered ID to sneak into US

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the San Ysidro port of entry April 10 stopped a homicide suspect attempting to sneak into the United States using an altered form of identification.

"We are pleased that we can help bring closure to this outstanding homicide case from more than three years ago," said Pete Flores, Director of Field Operations for the San Diego Field Office. "CBP officers caught this fugitive as he attempted to illegally sneak back into the U.S., and now he will face justice."



On April 10, at about 7 a.m., the 37-year-old man arrived at the port of entry on foot, and presented the CBP officer conducting his inspection a legal permanent resident card. Although the photo on the card matched the man, the officer suspected that the document was fraudulent, and referred the man for a more intensive inspection.

Using his fingerprints and the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, CBP officers confirmed that the man was Francisco Javier Navarro, which did not match the name printed on the legal permanent resident card. In fact, officers determined that the legal permanent resident card he had presented was altered.

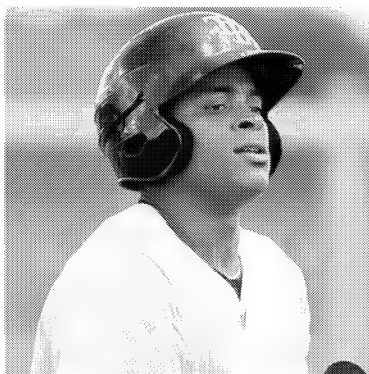
CBP officers performing a standard inquiry of law enforcement databases also confirmed that Navarro has an outstanding warrant for homicide, issued at the request

of the Salinas Police Department, with bail set at \$1.7 million. According to the Salinas Police Department, Navarro is wanted in connection with the shooting of his brother-in-law on Christmas Eve 2012.

Navarro is a Mexican citizen with no legal ability to enter the U.S. He was temporarily paroled into the U.S. and booked into jail to face charges.

USA – Former minor league baseball player busted at JFK for smuggling heroin

A former minor league baseball player was busted at Kennedy Airport for trying to smuggle heroin that he'd swallowed, court papers state.



Leandro Caminero, who last played for a Tampa Bay Devil Rays affiliate in 2012, was stopped for a screening on April 11 after stepping off a JetBlue flight from the Dominican Republic. "The defendant stated that he was traveling to the United States to visit a friend and was a professional baseball player," according to a criminal complaint.

Agents patted down the outfielder and searched his baggage but found no contraband, court papers state. But Caminero was apparently unable to maintain his composure during the vetting and became visibly nervous. Officers observed that the "defendant's heart rate was elevated" during the search, according to a criminal complaint.

"Upon further questioning, the defendant stated that he was not currently

working and was not assigned to any professional baseball team," papers state. Caminero then balked at signing an X-ray release form before relenting at JFK's medical facility, papers state. The X-ray revealed "foreign bodies" and Caminero later passed 11 pellets that tested positive for heroin, according to the complaint.

The former player is being held at JFK until he passes all the pellets in his system, papers state. He will then be arraigned in Brooklyn federal court on drug raps. (*New York Post*)

USA – CBP officers seize \$150K in unreported U.S. currency at Hidalgo International Bridge

Officers with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations working outbound operations at the Hidalgo International Bridge arrested a man from Roma, Texas after discovering \$150,202 in unreported U.S. currency within the vehicle he was driving.



CBP officers working outbound operations at the Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge on April 11, encountered a 33-year-old male U.S. citizen driving a silver GMC Terrain SUV at the exit lanes into Mexico. After the primary inspection, the driver and vehicle were referred for further examination and it was there that officers discovered four packages of U.S. currency hidden within the cargo area of the SUV.

CBP OFO seized the unreported currency, the vehicle and arrested the driver who was then released to the custody of Homeland Security Investigations agents for further investigation.

USA – Driver arrested in high-speed chase from border

A driver who blew past the U.S.-Mexico border crossing in San Ysidro was taken into custody near San Clemente on April 11 after leading federal and state officers on a 60-mile, high-speed chase.



California Highway Patrol Sgt. Curtis Martin told reporters the driver sped through the San Ysidro Port of Entry into the U.S. on about 1:45 a.m. Customs and Border Protection officers drove after him, and the Interstate 5 pursuit soon reached speeds of about 120 mph. CHP officers took over the pursuit around Oceanside, Martin said.

As the car sped toward a Border Patrol checkpoint just outside San Clemente, agents there put down spike strips. The driver hit the spikes and came to a stop in the middle of the freeway.

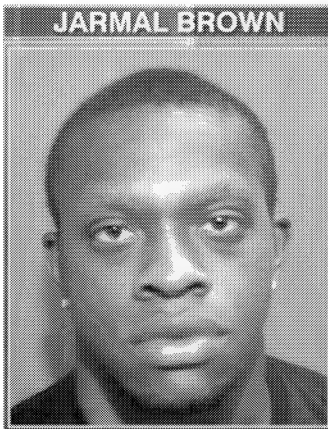
Martin said the driver refused commands to come out with his hands up - delivered in Spanish and English - and stayed in the car. "All the windows remained up and all the windows were tinted," Martin said. "We had no idea what he was doing or how many people were in the vehicle at that point."

CHP officers used a less-lethal shotgun that fires bean-bag rounds to break out a rear window. The driver surrendered soon after. "Thankfully, the Border Patrol successfully spiked the vehicle and it deflated the tires so it came to a successful conclusion with no injuries," Martin said.

The driver was arrested on suspicion of charges related to the pursuit. (*The San Diego Union-Tribune*)

USA – Man flees from U.S. Customs at OIA, jumps in lake before arrest

A 26-year-old Georgia man ended up arrested on the shores of a lake after making a desperate attempt to flee from U.S. Customs agents at Orlando International Airport, police said.



The man, Jarmal Nahshone Brown, had just arrived at the airport on a flight from the Bahamas when he was approached by the agents, an Orlando police report said. Before they could question him, Brown bolted, running through the terminal and exiting through a security door, the report said.

Brown was able to make it onto the tarmac and he jumped into a lake separating OIA from Airport Boulevard Loop.

Brown was spotted by officers walking near the airport. When he was approached, Brown darted into traffic and was nearly hit by three different vehicles, which had to skid to avoid him, the report said.

Brown then jumped back into the lake and initially refused to get out, officers said. He eventually exited the water and was arrested without further incident, the report said.

Brown was evaluated at the scene before being taken to Florida East Hospital. He was charged with resisting arrest. Officers found that he was wanted in Flagler County on warrants charging him with grand theft and burglary.

USA – Delta ramp worker accused of bringing gun to work

A Delta employee has been suspended and arrested after police say he tried to walk through security with a gun April 12.

The ramp worker was going through screening at the employee parking lot near the Atlanta airport when officials say the screener detected the 9mm handgun inside his bag. Police say the worker grabbed the bag, went to his car and drove off. He then came back to work without the gun and was questioned by authorities.

Meanwhile, Atlanta police and the FBI recovered what it is believed to be the same gun at a residence, not belonging to the employee, in less than an hour.



Major Lance Patterson says the employee says he forgot a gun was in his bag.

"You should know where your weapon is at all times," said investigator M.C. Cox with the Clayton County Solicitor General's Office.

A source said the Delta employee screening checkpoint where the gun was spotted was set up in response to the Delta gun smuggling case that broke in 2014. That case, where a then Delta ramp worker and former ramp worker allegedly conspired to smuggle guns on Delta flights from Atlanta to New York, is still pending.

The screening takes place in the lot where Delta employees park before boarding buses for the airport, many of them for jobs in secure areas.

Delta sent a statement about the incident, saying: "The employee involved in this episode has been suspended pending final outcome of the investigation. Safety and security is always Delta's top priority and we will continue to work closely with TSA, law enforcement and other stakeholders to that end."

The case is now in the hands of College Park police because the parking lot is in their jurisdiction.

Patterson says the employee will face three misdemeanor weapons charges. (WSB-TV)

USA – Turtle smuggler from Canada snapped with 57 months in US prison

A Canadian man who repeatedly entered Michigan to buy and ship thousands of turtles to his native China has been sentenced to nearly five years in prison for smuggling.



It's a tough punishment for Kai Xu, who has been locked up for 19 months since his arrest and had hoped to be released. The 27-year-old has said he was partly trying to make money for college. Xu apologized on April 12 for his "greed."

Xu, then a student at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, shipped turtles to China from Canada and the U.S., or hired someone to fly to China with turtles in their luggage.

In 2014, he was caught at the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel with 51 turtles taped to his legs. Officials said the attempted smuggling was connected to another in which a number of turtles were found stuffed into

rubber snow boots and cereal boxes inside a Canadian man's luggage at Detroit Metro Airport. The Detroit Zoo later took in the smuggled turtles.

It's illegal to export wildlife from the U.S. without a license from the government. Xu was facing a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. (CBS Detroit)

USA – Bakersfield resident caught at Blaine border after writing \$66,000 in bad checks

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Peace Arch Port of Entry took a 62-year-old woman into custody when an outstanding National Crime Information Center warrant out of Las Vegas, Nev., was found during a routine name check.

The woman, a citizen of China and a U.S. Lawful Permanent Resident, wrote \$66,475 in checks with insufficient funds. After the warrant was confirmed, the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office was contacted to transport the woman to the Whatcom County Jail to await extradition.

USA – Baggage inspection yields 23kg of contraband from Egypt

A passenger arrived into JFK International Airport, Terminal 4, from Egypt via EgyptAir flight MS 985. The passenger provided a negative declaration on CBP Form 7662 for agriculture products and failed to amend his declaration orally to CBP Agriculture Specialists.



Upon physical inspection of two large Styrofoam boxes, CBP Agriculture Specialists discovered undeclared agriculture contraband including 15 kg of raw poultry with blood, 5 kg of guavas, and 3 kg of cucurbit seeds. All items are prohibited entry into the US and were seized and safeguarded for destruction.

For failure to declare prohibited agriculture products, CBP Agriculture Specialists issued a \$300 civil penalty, mitigated to \$175 for lack of funds.

USA – Mexican felon sentenced for illegally re-entering US after removal

A Mexican national illegally present in the United States, who was previously convicted in June 2000 on a felony drug charge in Maricopa County, Arizona, was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison April 12 for illegally re-entering the United States after removal.



Felipe Escobar-Martinez, 41, of Veracruz, Mexico, was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations in September during a targeted enforcement operation in New Iberia.

U.S. District Judge Dee D. Drell sentenced Escobar-Martinez to 18 months in federal prison April 12 after he admitted to illegally re-entering the United States in 1999, 2000 and 2005. Escobar-Martinez pleaded guilty Dec. 22 to one count of illegal re-entry of a removed alien.



USA – CBP logs pest interception at Hobby Airport

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists working at Hobby International Airport found live wood-boring insects nesting in a traveler's walking stick, April 12.

A female traveler, who arrived from Belize, declared a wooden walking stick when she arrived to Houston; she was then referred for a secondary agriculture exam. During the exam, agriculture specialists noted that the walking stick she declared was an untreated tree limb with evidence of insect activity.

CBP agriculture specialists discovered two live insects that were later identified as *Monochamus* sp. (Cerambycidae) and *Curculionidae* sp., both of which are wood-boring pests that can have a serious impact on the U.S. logging industry.

The walking stick was seized and destroyed.

USA – Cocaine found in bags of coffee by CBP at JFK

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in New York are always discovering interesting concealment methods. Hiding cocaine in bags of coffee is another way that one would-be smuggler attempted to transport illegal drugs into the United States.



On April 13, Ms. Sherese Lee Ann Drake, a Jamaican citizen, arrived at John F. Kennedy International Airport from Montego Bay, Jamaica and presented herself for inspection. During the examination of Ms. Drake's suitcase, CBP officers removed a plastic coffee bag that contained a white powder.

Ms. Drake was escorted to a private search room where CBP officers probed two bags of coffee, all of which contained a white powder that tested positive for cocaine. In total, approximately 3 lbs. of cocaine was seized.

CBP officers placed her under arrest and turned her over to the Port Authority Police Department. She now faces state narcotics smuggling charges and will be prosecuted by the Queens District Attorney's Office.



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USA – Counterfeit shipments revealed at airport

Everything from fake Air Jordans to designer purses were revealed April 15 at the Greater Rochester International Airport.



Security personnel say 300 counterfeit shipments were uncovered, and now they're cracking down more than ever before. Experts say those shipments travelling directly through the airport are coming from China and being transported to U.S. cities elsewhere.

As far as its effect on the consumer, they tell us the more fraudulent items on the market; the more it affects our economy both locally and nationally. But one the biggest concerns our regional customs and border protection office had is its impact on safety.

Dozens of counterfeit airbags were some of the items found in the sweep. One officer says airbags like those have been tested on crash dummies before, and failed to deploy. (WHAM)

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USA – CBP seizes \$46K in unreported currency at Washington Dulles International Airport

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations, at Washington Dulles International Airport seized \$46,290 on April 16 from a Ghanaian man for violating federal currency reporting regulations.

A man was boarding a flight to Ghana and was selected for questioning by CBP officers who were conducting an outbound enforcement operation on an international flight. The man reported \$10,000, however; a total of \$46,290 was discovered on his person and in his luggage. CBP officers seized the \$46,290, returned \$1,290 in humanitarian relief, and advised him how to petition for the return of the rest of the currency.

USA – Atlanta CBP arrests woman, seized cocaine in jackets, purses and llama skins

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) arrested a woman and seized nearly 15 pounds of cocaine on April 17.

The female passenger, a U.S. citizen, arrived from Lima, Peru and was referred to a secondary examination. During her secondary inspection, CBP officers and Agriculture Specialist examined the baggage contents and



discovered a white powdery substance concealed in purses, jackets, and llama skins. That substance field-tested positive for cocaine.

The cocaine weighed a total of 14.44 pounds, and had a street value of approximately \$450,000. CBP turned the individual over to Clayton County Police officers for local prosecution.

USA – CBP at JFK seizes cocaine in candy

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists and officers discovered a special surprise inside containers of candy carried by a passenger arriving at John F. Kennedy International Airport.



On April 18, CBP agriculture specialists were performing an x-ray examination of luggage belonging to Ms. Petra Medarda, a citizen of Mexico, who had arrived on a flight from Mexico City. CBP agriculture specialists performing the x-ray examination noticed an anomaly on the x-ray of rectangular shaped objects, and discovered that a package was concealed within the containers of candy.

CBP agriculture specialists requested assistance from CBP officers who escorted Ms. Medarda to a private search room where CBP officers probed the concealed package producing a white powder that tested positive for cocaine. In total, CBP discovered eight bricks of cocaine weighing approximately 10 lbs.

CBP officers placed Ms. Medarda under arrest and turned her over to the New York Police Department. She now faces state narcotics smuggling charges and will be prosecuted by the Queens County District Court.

USA – CBP seizes \$48K in unreported currency at Philadelphia International Airport

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations, at Philadelphia International Airport seized \$48,935 on April 19 from a Massachusetts man for violating federal currency reporting regulations.

The man was boarding a flight to Jamaica and was selected for questioning by CBP officers who were conducting an outbound enforcement operation on an international flight. The man completed a financial form, reporting \$4,000, however; CBP officers discovered a total of \$48,935 on his person and in his luggage. Officers subsequently seized the \$48,935.

USA – U.S. Passport Card: Everything you need to know

Recently, an American woman flew into Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on vacation—but was refused entry and sent home. Mexican authorities at the airport told her they wouldn't accept her passport card as sufficient proof of documentation. And while this story is unfortunate, to be sure, it's not the first time there has been a mix-up over what a U.S. passport card will—and won't—allow you to do. Here's what you need to know:

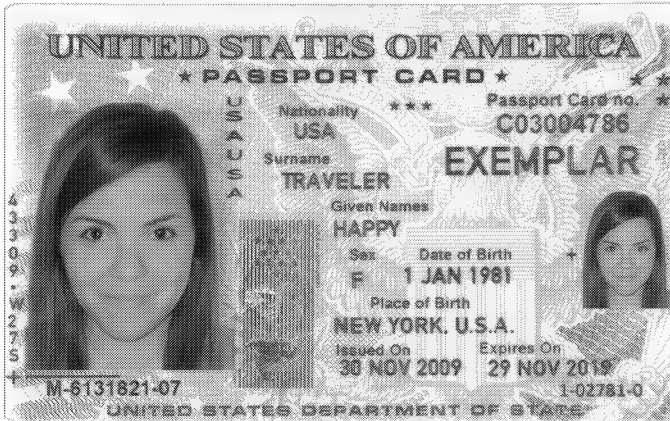
What is a passport card, exactly?

It's a wallet-sized plastic card (think the size of a driver's license) that was "designed for the specific needs of northern and southern U.S. border communities with residents that cross the border frequently by land." It's been in production since July 14, 2008. Each passport card is valid for the same amount of time as a passport: ten years for adults, and five years for minors under age 16.



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Where can I use it?

A passport card only applies to **land or sea travel** to *certain* locations internationally, which is noted on the back of the card. More specifically, it can be used when entering the U.S. from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. Despite some confusion on the part of airport employees, passport cards cannot be used for international travel by air, which means that while you may get through security in one airport, it's unlikely you'll slide through without issue everywhere you go. Also of note: Some Caribbean nations—including Guadeloupe, Martinique, Barbados, St. Barts, and St. Martin—do

not accept the passport card for entry into their country, so should you be traveling there by ship, confirm with your cruise line ahead of time what documents you need.

What are the benefits of having one?

Essentially, these cards are more convenient. Though an American passport can get you into 174 countries by ship, plane, train, or car, passport cards are smaller, cheaper (\$55 for adults; \$40 for minors under 16), and more portable. Given that there will be a rush to get passports in the coming months—and a record number is expected to be issued in 2016—you may also have less competition for a passport card, too.

How do I apply for a passcard?

You'll use the same form that you would use to apply for a passport book—either a DS-11 or DS-82. On the form, you indicate that you're applying for a passport card by checking the appropriate box. Easy enough. Much like with a passport application process, you'll have to provide documents that establish your U.S. citizenship and identity. The application processing time is roughly the same as it is for a passport: at present, six weeks from the time of application.

How secure is it?

Passport cards are laser-engraved, and various security features like holograms, layered art, and specialized fonts minimize the possibility of forgery. Each card has a radio frequency identification (RFID) chip, which, instead of storing personal information, contains a unique number linked to a record within government databases. Each card is also issued with—and should be kept in—a protective sleeve that prevents the card from being read when not in use. (*Condé Nast Traveler*)

USA – Blaine Police reports

April 3, 7:40 p.m.: A woman attempting to enter the U.S. from Canada aboard an Amtrak train was found to have a felony warrant outstanding for her arrest. The warrant was confirmed and she was booked into jail. Her excess property was placed into safekeeping at the Blaine Police Department due to restrictions at Whatcom County Jail.

April 7, 5:25 p.m.: U.S. Customs reported that while they were interviewing a person who was requesting entry into the U.S. from Canada, they discovered the man was in possession of a controlled substance. Blaine Police were called to investigate. An officer arrived, interviewed the parties and arrested jail and his personal use quantities of methadone and lorazepam were booked in to evidence for processing and trial.

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April 9, 7:21 a.m.: A Customs and Border Protection enforcement team working at the Peace Arch port requested that Blaine Police respond when the facility perimeter was compromised and entry to the secure federal facility was made by a single upset suspect who refused to comply with lawful demands that he leave. A Blaine officer responded to protect the port and its personnel. Evaluation determined the several Customs officers and one Blaine officer could manage the threat level presented without calling for additional resources. A multi-agency unified command was established and inter-agency protocols and directives were reviewed to ensure the planned resolution was in compliance with standing orders. The Department of Homeland Security offered to supply appropriate federal containment hardware to prosecute the mission, while holding in reserve their implements of shock and awe. Having provided the Blaine officer with tools and a fresh threat assessment, the customs team escorted him to the area of the port where the suspect had control. When negotiations between the suspect and officer failed, the officer successfully deployed the containment hardware and took the suspect into custody without injury. Once subdued the suspect refused to admit wrongdoing. In the interest of natural selection he was removed from the federal facility and released to his more sensible and less adventurous muskrat friends.



April 11, 3:30 a.m.: U.S. Customs reported they were questioning a person at the Peace Arch crossing who had drugs and paraphernalia with him. A Blaine Police officer arrived, investigated and arrested the 36-year-old traveler for illegal possession of drug paraphernalia and methamphetamine. The material was booked in to evidence for laboratory examination and the person was booked into jail.

April 20, 9:28 p.m.: Police were called to the Peace Arch port of entry after customs officers discovered that a traveler applying for entry to the U.S. was in possession of several prescription drugs that he had purchased illegally outside the U.S. Blaine officers investigated, arrested the suspect, and after processing released him with a mandatory court date. (*The Northern Light*)

USA – Baltimore CBP arrests fugitive

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations, at Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport arrested a Maryland man on April 21 who was wanted by the Prince Georges County, Md., Sheriff's Office for larceny.

Larian Lee Finney, 50, of Baltimore, arrived on a flight from the Bahamas. CBP officers determined Finney to be the subject of an arrest warrant obtained by the Prince Georges County Sheriff's Office for larceny. CBP officers verified the validity of the warrant and confirmed extradition. CBP officers arrested Finney and turned him over to Maryland Transportation Authority police officers for extradition.

USA – CBP officers detain fugitive from justice at Sea-Tac

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers detained a fugitive from justice, who is the suspect in a Colorado shooting death, April 22 at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

The man was detained by CBP officers after they were contacted by Homeland Security Investigations and notified that the man was attempting to flee the United States to Hong Kong. The man was wanted by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the suspect in the shooting death of his girlfriend, which took place April 21. The Port of Seattle Police Department arrested the man and transported him to the King County Jail to await the arrival of detectives from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, who will escort the man back to Colorado to face charges.

USA – CBP seizes \$38K in unreported currency at Washington Dulles International Airport

U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Washington Dulles International Airport seized \$38,872 on April 23 from a Virginia man for violating federal currency reporting regulations.

A man was boarding a flight to Ghana and was selected for questioning by CBP officers who were conducting an outbound enforcement operation on the international flight. The man completed a financial form, reporting \$8,500

however; a total of \$38,872 was discovered on his person. CBP officers seized the \$38,872 and advised him how to petition for the return of the currency.

USA – Woman arrested at O'Hare with 38 pounds of drugs had traveled to Laos

A Minnesota woman arrested with more than 38 pounds of drugs in her luggage at O'Hare International Airport was returning to her home state after traveling to Laos, police said.

Khousa Vang, 49, appeared in bond court at the Leighton Criminal Courts Building, where Judge Adam Bourgeois Jr. ordered her held in lieu of \$100,000 bail. Vang was arrested about 3 a.m. April 23 after U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers contacted the Cook County sheriff's office when they found more than 3,500 methamphetamine pills and about 37 1/2 pounds of opium in her luggage, according to a release from the Cook County sheriff's office.



Vang had returned to the United States on a flight from South Korea after traveling to Laos and who was scheduled to fly home to Minnesota, where she lives, according to authorities.

Vang, who also was ordered to surrender her passport, faces various charges related to methamphetamine-possession and dealing as well as charges related to opium possession and dealing after being arrested April 22 at O'Hare's International Terminal. Her next court appearance is May 13. (*Chicago Tribune*)

USA – California man wanted for drug violations nabbed at Blaine border

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations officers at the Peace Arch Port of Entry took a 29-year-old man into custody April 24 when an outstanding NCIC warrant out of Mountain View, California, was found during a routine name check.

The man, a citizen of India and a U.S. lawful permanent resident was a positive match to a warrant out of California for failure to appear on dangerous drug charges. After the warrant was confirmed with the Mountain View Police Department, the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office was contacted to transport him to the Whatcom County Jail to await extradition.

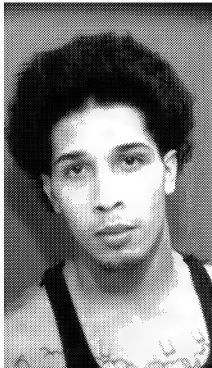
USA – Teens sentenced in armed kidnapping of federal agent

A federal judge on April 25 sentenced two Orlando men each to more than a decade in prison for their role in the August kidnapping of a federal law enforcement agent.



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Gregory McDonald, 18, and Dante Askins, 19, pleaded guilty in February to kidnapping Armando Alaniz, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent, who was packing up his family's Chevrolet Tahoe outside a hotel on Universal Boulevard.

McDonald, Askins and two juveniles approached him about 10 p.m., hit him in the face with a revolver and forced him into the SUV. They used zip-ties on his feet and taped his hands, and then drove around for about two hours. Authorities said Alaniz's wife had OnStar call her husband. The four then ditched the vehicle and Alaniz managed to stretch out the tape enough to slip out, reports state.

Authorities said they found Askins and McDonald's fingerprints inside the agent's SUV. They were arrested after Askins, a documented gang member, was stopped the next day driving another stolen car.

The teens faced up to 25 years in prison. McDonald was sentenced to 20 years and Askins was sentenced to 14 years, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. (*Orlando Sentinel*)

USA – CBP intercepts phone scam proceeds

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers working at the Fort Street Cargo Facility on April 26 examined a package sent via United Parcel Service that contained \$4000 in Canadian dollars hidden inside. The sender of the package almost fell victim to a senior citizen phone scam.



The package was manifested as a book with a low declared value originating from Oshawa, Ontario and destined for Kentucky. Research determined the address listed was not real and had links to fraudulent ID sales. CBP officers working with Homeland Security Investigations and Royal Canadian Mounted Police determined the person who shipped the package is a senior citizen and resident of a nursing home in Canada who was the victim of a phone scam by a criminal organization that preys on the elderly.

The Canadian currency and book were seized by CBP for and turned over to HSI.

The package with the money and book will be returned to the victim with the assistance of the RCMP.

USA – CBP at JFK 'bags' smuggler

A traveler had more than a laptop in his computer bag when he arrived at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. Fortunately U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers were 'on-line' to firewall his plans.

On April 29, CBP officers intercepted passenger Mr. Angelo Fernandez, a United States citizen, arriving from Santiago, Dominican Republic. During his examination, CBP officers noticed that the inside panels of the computer bag felt unusually thick and the bag was heavier than normal when empty. Mr. Fernandez was escorted to a private search room where CBP officers conducted a personal search and a rigid object was felt in the subject's groin area producing a sock containing 100 pellets. CBP officers probed the pellets producing a white powder that

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tested positive for cocaine. Additionally, his carry-on computer bag was probed revealing a white powder that also tested positive for cocaine.



Mr. Fernandez was arrested for the importation of a controlled substance and was turned over to Homeland Security Investigations. The total weight of cocaine seized was approximately 9 lbs. with an approximate street value of \$160,000.

USA – Border Patrol agent narrowly escapes injury, driver arrested, marijuana seized after pursuit

A Tucson Sector Border Patrol agent narrowly escaped injury after a U.S citizen made an attempt to run him over April 30 at a checkpoint in southern Arizona.



Agents working at the Federal Route 15 checkpoint south of Casa Grande, Arizona encountered a Dodge pick-up truck and referred the driver to a secondary inspection lane after a canine alerted to the vehicle. Instead, the driver ignored the instructions and accelerated directly at the agent.

The agent was able to deploy a spike strip while simultaneously evading the oncoming vehicle, successfully deflating two of the truck's tires. Unfazed, however, the driver continued to flee.

Agents pursued the vehicle for 30 miles on Federal Route 15 until other agents deployed a second spike strip, which deflated the remaining two tires. With the truck inoperable, the driver then attempted to evade agents on foot but was immediately apprehended. A subsequent search of the truck uncovered two bales of marijuana, weighing nearly 56 pounds and worth approximately \$27,800.

Agents later conducted a biometric records check that identified the driver as a U.S citizen; on parole from the Arizona Department of Corrections. The subject is now in custody and faces charges relating to the drugs, assault and ensuing pursuit.

USA – U.S. to require all Visa Waiver applicants to use e-passports

The Department of Homeland Security announced that all travelers entering the United States from countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program would be required to have an electronic passport, known as an e-passport.

An e-Passport includes an electronic chip that contains the traveler's biographical information, which DHS said is a security enhancement and protection against identity theft. The new requirement took effect April 1 and affects travelers from 38 countries.

"The requirement that Visa Waiver applicants now must use an e-passport is a reasonable balance to facilitate added protection against passport forgeries and identity theft, and ease of convenience in the use of the program," said Stewart Rabinowitz, a Dallas immigration attorney. "The requirement only applies to Visa Waiver applicants; those without an e-passport are still able to apply for a visitor visa at a U.S. consular post abroad."

The new requirement was mandated by the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act passed by Congress in 2015. The Visa Waiver Program allows travelers from certain countries to come to the U.S. for up to 90 days without a visa. (Law Firm Newswire)

U.S. Virgin Islands – CBP arrests pair attempting to smuggle marijuana to the Virgin Islands

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers arrested on April 6 a pair that attempted to introduce 30 pounds (14 kilos) of marijuana upon arrival to the Cyril E. King Airport.

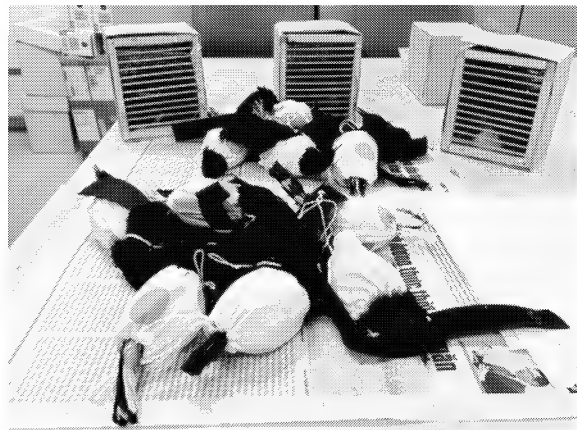


Sierra Wimberly, 25, and Noelle Bishop, 27, made their initial appearances on April 7 before Judge Ruth Miller after being charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

A CBP K-9 detected narcotics in checked bags belonging to Wimberly and Bishopel, who had arrived on a flight from Atlanta. In secondary inspection their checked bags were examined where CBP officers found and seized 4.9 kilograms of marijuana from Wimberly's bag, and 10.25 kilograms of marijuana from Bishopel's bag.

Vietnam – Man caught in HCMC airport with endangered birds in trouser legs

Customs officers at Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat International Airport April 12 arrested a passenger for attempting to smuggle out endangered birds to Taiwan. The man, whose name was not disclosed, was found with 18 live birds inside his trouser legs and checked baggage packed in special pouches.



The Institute of Tropical Biology confirmed that 11 of the birds belonged to protected species like the white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*), oriental shamas (*Copsychus saularis*) and melodious laughing thrush (*Garrulax canorus*), all singing birds. Customs and police are investigating. (*Thanh Niên News*)

Vietnam – Filipino woman receives death sentence for cocaine smuggling

Donna Buenagua Mazon, 41, from the Philippines, was sentenced to death at the second trial of the Ho Chi Minh City's People's court on April 15 for smuggling nearly 1.5 kilograms of cocaine into Vietnam.

In the first trial, Mazon was sentenced to death but she appealed for a lenient sentence and the court quashed the sentence for re-investigation and re-trial.



According to the indictment, on December 31, 2013, customs officers at the Tan Son Nhat International Airport checked Mazon's baggage and discovered two bags of white powder, weighing over 1.48 kg in total, which was proved to be cocaine.

Donna Buenagua Mazon confessed that a friend in the Philippines asked her to bring the two bags into Vietnam in return for 3,000 USD, plus trip expenses and airplane tickets.

Vietnam – 2 Laos men caught smuggling 12 kg of heroin to Vietnam



Border guards in Nghe An Province in central Vietnam have arrested two Laos men for smuggling nearly 12 kilograms of heroin into Vietnam.

The suspects, 40 and 45 years old, were caught on April 17 while carrying the heroin and 15,000 ecstasy pills on a motorbike.

Vietnam has some of the world's toughest drug laws. The production or sale of 100 grams of heroin or 300 grams of other illegal narcotics is punishable by death. Those convicted of possessing or smuggling more than 600 grams of heroin or more than 2.5 kilograms of methamphetamine also face the death penalty. (*Thanh Niên News*)

Vietnam – Vietnam seizes 100kg of ivory at Hanoi airport

More than 100 pieces of tusks were seized as customs officers checked a suspicious cargo in Noi Bai International Airport on April 15. The shipment was held on suspicion of being elephant tusks upon its arrival to the Hanoi airport from the Turkish Airline flight TK 6562 on April 6, according to the airport customs.



On April 15, customs and anti-smuggling agency under the General Department of Vietnam Customs decided to examine the shipment, eventually finding more than 100 pieces of tusks of various sizes inside. The ivory weighs a total of 98kg, according to officers. The tusks have been sealed for further investigation. (*Tuoi Tre News*)

Zimbabwe – UK dream goes up in smoke

A 25-year old Harare woman has been fined U.S.\$100 for attempting to use her sister's British passport to travel to the United Kingdom. Shumirai Mtetwa was arrested at the Harare International Airport as she attempted to dupe immigration officials. She breached the *Immigration Act*.

Mtetwa pleaded guilty when she appeared before Harare magistrate Mr Tendai Mahwe April 8. Failure to pay the fine would land Mtetwa in prison for 20 days.

The passport was handed over to the British Embassy. Prosecutor Mrs Francesca Mukumbiri alleged that on April 5 around 4pm Minerals and Border Control Unit detectives received a tip-off that a Zimbabwean woman was using someone else's passport to fly to the UK.

The detectives intercepted Mtetwa at the checkpoint tendering the passport. Detectives approached Mtetwa and asked her to produce her passport. She showed them the British passport number GBR 510236440. The detectives interrogated Mtetwa who confessed that the passport belonged to her sister Melody Mtetwa. Melody is in the United Kingdom. (*The Herald*)

HOW TO SPOT A DRUG SMUGGLER TRYING TO ENTER CANADA...



Recently spotted at YVR...



Iron Maiden's Boeing 747 arrives from Edmonton April 9, piloted by lead singer Bruce Dickinson.

VIA 1988



(L-R) Bev Harris, Bob Pedersen, George Morris, Brian Simpson (with ten kilos of marijuana)

Bob Pedersen

**Superintendent
CBSA, Vancouver International Airport**

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Enforcement Report CBSA Vancouver International Airport May 2016



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VIA ENFORCEMENT REPORT #74

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DISTRICT SUMMARY

There were just 96 seizures in May but, oh, what seizures they were: 13.2 kilos of heroin, three kilos of opium, a kilo of methamphetamine, 13.74 kg of DMT, 4.27 kg of marijuana, 532 grams of hashish, \$103,788.17 in proceeds of crime, \$622,421.35 in level one and two currency seizures, a live dog, 93 cartons of cigarettes, switchblade knives, jewellery, watches, a fake TRV, 45 kg of meat...just about everything.

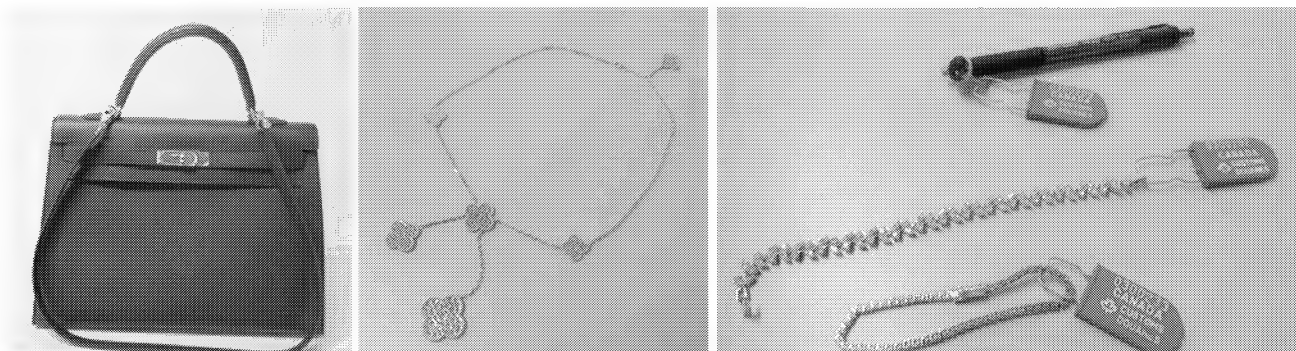
STAFF CHANGES

COURT NEWS

On January 21, [redacted] resident [redacted] arrived on [redacted] She went through ABC and declared \$150. Manvir Moore examined her luggage and found two undeclared Hermès wallets and five Hermès handbags. The value of the seized goods is \$43,260 and the duty and taxes evaded is \$6580.72. On May 5, the Criminal Investigations Section laid the following *Customs Act* charges against [redacted] in Richmond Provincial Court: Section 153(a) - making a false statement; Section 153(c) - willfully attempting to evade the payment of duties and taxes on imported goods; and Section 159 – smuggling

On May 14, David Rosales intercepted a [redacted] Upon examination it was discovered [redacted] passport contained a counterfeit TRV. Criminal Investigations arrested [redacted] for using a false document upon entry. On May 15 and 16, CIS swore the following charges against [redacted] IRPA Section 122(1)(a) possession of a fraudulent visa that purports to establish a person's identity; 122(1)(b) use of a fraudulent visa for the purpose of entering Canada; and 127(a) misrepresentation. [redacted] was remanded in custody.

On February 22, 2016, [redacted] resident [redacted] arrived [redacted] She made a nil declaration at ABC. [redacted] had a previous seizure for unreported currency and was referred to secondary by ABC. During a secondary examination, Johnson Cheng found that [redacted] had not declared an Hermès handbag, a Van Cleef & Arpels diamond necklace and a pink tourmaline and diamond ring. The total value of the undeclared goods was \$62,953, and the D&T evaded was \$7995.44.



On May 31, the Criminal Investigations Section laid *Customs Act* charges against [redacted] in Richmond Provincial Court under Section 153(a) - making a false statement; Section 153(c) - willfully attempting to evade the payment of duties and taxes on imported goods; and Section 159 – smuggling.

NARCOTICS



On May 2, a [redacted] man seeking entry for three days for business was referred as a WF due to a previous marijuana seizure at [redacted] in 2010. The man apparently didn't learn his lesson as **Jeremy Doiron** conducted a baggage exam and found a small amount of edible marijuana. The man was consequently arrested. When his ITD bag arrived, the man admitted that more marijuana would be found inside, which it was. A total of 38 grams were seized. The man was found inadmissible and returned [redacted] the same day.

Jennifer Wilson seized 54 grams of DHEA on May 9 from a shipment [redacted] with a declared value of US\$6.46 and a weight of .3 kg The shipment contained a marked chitosan, however inside was a Ziploc bag of white powder marked DHEA.

On May 13, **John Mawhinney** was conducting outbound courier examinations at the FedEx warehouse. He selected a half-kilo shipment valued declared as Aromatherapy, destined for [redacted] for further examination. The plastic shipping envelope contained a series of bags concealing 499 grams of a white and brown crystalline substance. During the courier sort a second shipment was identified. It was also declared as "Aromatherapy" and was



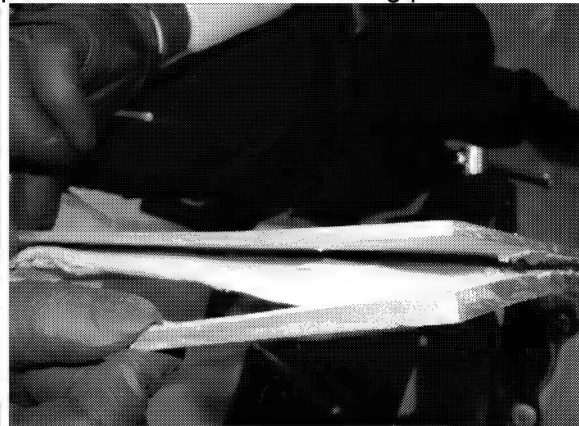
destined to [redacted] It contained 500 grams of the crystals. An Ionscan of the crystals was positive for methamphetamine, as was a NIK test. RCMP declined a controlled delivery however.

Marijuana

On May 17, as part of [redacted]

at UPS, **Tracey Skelton** selected a person-to-person shipment from Port Coquitlam destined to [redacted] for examination. The one-pound shipment was declared as [redacted] with a value of \$32. Inside were four boxes [redacted] packages which contained four vacuum-sealed plastic bags containing marijuana. The marijuana weighed a total of 528 grams.

On May 20, **Clive Shephard** seized 532 grams of hashish [redacted] that was concealed in [redacted] The shipment was declared as drawing painted with



watercolor on canvas



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More marijuana On May 20, **Heather Yap-Zonneveld** and **Juan Botero** were conducting out-bound courier exams at UPS

They selected a two-pound package from Vancouver destined for examination. The shipment was declared for charity events. When opened, three vacuumed-sealed packages were discovered. The bags were filled with 495 g of marijuana.

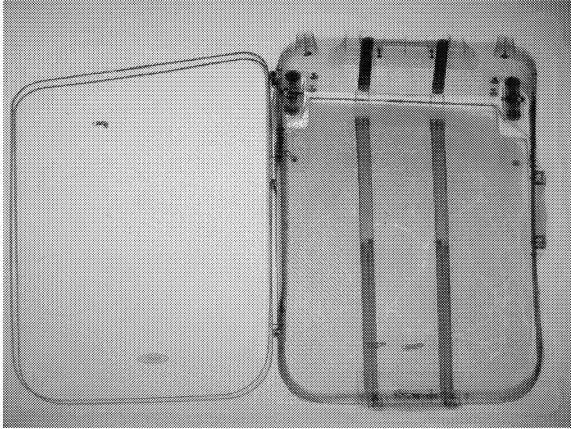
On May 24, while conducting out bound export exams at DHL, **Jordan Smyth** and **Juan Botero** selected a 45 kg shipment declared as "Dry Fruits / Blueberry", destined for Hong Kong for examination. The shipment contained

closer examination, appeared Zip-loc bags which contained 2.7 kg of marijuana.

The seizure of the month goes to **Heather Zentner** for her huge heroin seizure on May 25. The NTC had targeted who was arriving had been away for seven days and her tickets were purchased six days before departure. She is unemployed, could only provide limited details regarding her trip and had two large suitcases, the X-rays of which showed abnormalities. The suitcases were new, and when the lining was ripped, a smell of glue was present and a thick, hard substance was found. The bags

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were emptied and the substance NIK-tested positive for heroin.



In total, 9.71 kg of heroin was extracted from the two suitcases. A controlled delivery was declined by the RCMP. Surprisingly, [redacted] was released from RCMP custody on a PTA the same night.

Back on April 7, a DHL shipment _____ destined to an individual in Vancouver and declared as _____ was an NTC target. The shipment consisted of a small box containing six commercially-sealed plastic bags. Each bag contained a brownish-red powder. **Pat Sharma** sent a sample to the CBSA lab and on May 12 the lab analysis determined that the substance was Dimethyltryptamine (DMT). The six bags of the powder, weighing a total of 13.74 kg, were seized with no terms of release.

On May 26, while assigned to examine C-LVS shipments at the FedEx courier warehouse, **Natasha Uppal** and **David Williams** examined a FedEx shipment declared as _____ at 20 kg with a declared value of \$220.56. The shipment was arriving _____ and was destined to a _____

business in Vancouver. The shipment was a cardboard box _____. The box was X-rayed empty and inconsistencies within the box could be seen. The box was scored with a box cutter and a _____

white powder was found. An Ionscan of the substance was positive for heroin. The RCMP declined a controlled delivery so the heroin was seized no-case. A total of 3.5 kg was extracted.

On May 26, a DHL shipment out of _____ was an NTC target. Eight 30ml bottles of cannabinoid oil were seized by **Reg Regala** against the exporter _____ for inaccurate information. The importer was in Kaleden, BC.



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Still more marijuana Yet another UPS shipment from Vancouver was selected for examination. This one, on May 26, weighed one pound and was declared as Birthday Gift". Inside, **Justin Chow** found two vacuum-packed bags containing marijuana. A total of 498 grams of marijuana were seized.

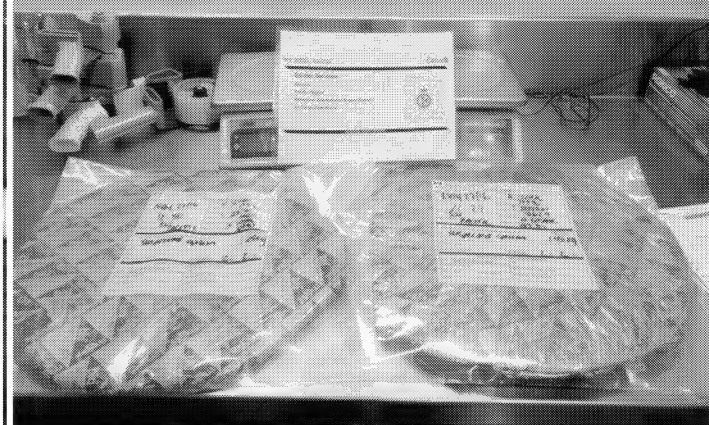
On May 27, while examining C-LVS shipments at the FedEx warehouse, **Tracey Skelton** examined a two-piece shipment declared _____" weighing 34.5 kg with a declared value of \$49.92. The

shipment had arrived _____ and was destined to an individual in Vancouver. The shipment contained _____ and when _____ were X-rayed, inconsistencies could be seen.

One _____ was opened and 1.4 kg of opium was found. Upon opening the second _____, 1.65 kg of

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opium was found, bringing the total to 3.05 kg of opium. The RCMP declined a controlled delivery.

WEAPONS

On May 30, we were notified that [redacted] travelling [redacted], had been arrested and restrained after smoking mid-flight and then attempting to exit the aircraft the moment the wheels touched the ground. The RCMP escorted [redacted] off the plane and took him straight to Secondary. The unemployed [redacted] said that he wished to remain in Canada until November 24 to hunt, fish and travel. He had only €800 but admitted that if work was offered to him he would accept it. During the baggage exam, **Geoff Lugar** found a switchblade knife and arrested [redacted]. Once it was determined that [redacted] was inadmissible, the RCMP released him to our custody. [redacted] exhibited strange behaviour throughout the exam and, as such, he was detained and transported to Richmond Hospital where he remains.

PORNOGRAPHY / CHILD ABUSE IMAGES

On May 14, a [redacted] returned to Canada [redacted] to resume work. **John Kirkbride** referred him on a selective. In Secondary, **Mitchell Labranche** noticed that the man was very nervous throughout the exam and when questioned about the content of his cell phone, he admitted to having a large amount of pornography as well as some questionable videos that his friend had sent. Upon examination of the phone, a video depicting bestiality was found as well as one of suspected child pornography. The man was arrested and RCMP attended but did not wish to pursue charges. The iPhone containing the videos was seized and the man was [redacted] later that evening.

ARRESTS / WARRANTS

On May 4, [redacted] arrived [redacted]. An indices check revealed that she was the subject of an outstanding BC-wide warrant for theft under \$5000 and fraud under \$5000. The originating agency confirmed the warrant and **Giovanni Rosini** arrested [redacted]. Richmond RCMP responded and took her into custody.

On the fifth, **Robin Sagarbarria** arrested [redacted] who had arrived [redacted]. An indices check reveal numerous warrants, one of which was from BC for impaired driving. [redacted] was taken away by RCMP.

On May 8, [redacted] arrived for 22 days and was referred as an immigration lookout. Checks in GCMS revealed that [redacted] was the subject of an IRPA warrant

[redacted] During the examination [redacted] told **Jeremy Doiron** that she wished to seek entry for an indefinite period and planned to rely on government support until she could support herself. She planned to live with her mother [redacted] When asked about her employment [redacted] said that it was "not good." [redacted] The warrant was executed upon confirmation of her identity and [redacted] departed [redacted] May 10

On the 13th, [redacted] citizen [redacted] arrived on [redacted] Indices checks revealed an outstanding Canada-wide warrant for two charges under the *Excise Tax Act*. [redacted] was arrested by **Giovanni Rosini** and a baggage examination was resultant for a switchblade knife. The knife was seized and Richmond RCMP took custody

On May 22, 33-year-old Justin Vaughan DOLAN returned on LH492 with his grandfather and was referred to Secondary as a lookout. Indices checks revealed five outstanding warrants from Fort St. John: three counts of breach, one count of mischief and one for an MVA infraction. DOLAN was arrested by **Sowmith Katragadda** and the RCMP issued him a PTA.

On the 24th, [redacted] resident [redacted] returning [redacted] was referred as an NTC lookout. Indices checks revealed [redacted] is the subject of an outstanding BC-wide warrant for production of a controlled substance, PPT and theft of electricity, as he did not appear for his court date. The originating agency confirmed the warrant and [redacted] was then arrested by **Richard Chou**. RCMP attended and took custody

CURRENCY / PROCEEDS OF CRIME

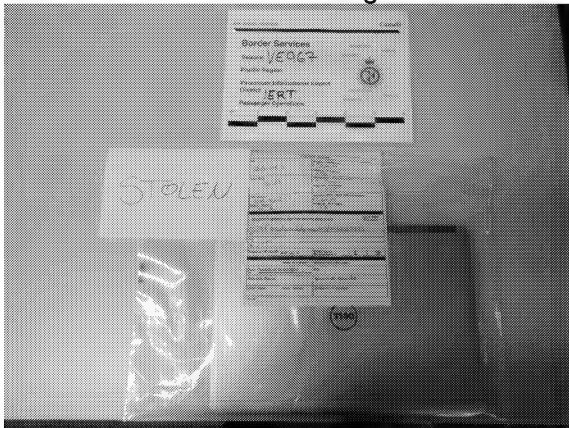
Ray Louie roved a [redacted] man travelling to [redacted] May 7. Upon questioning him about the currency in his possession, the man said he was over the reporting threshold. He was escorted the currency office where he unlocked all his mobile phones, except one, which he deliberately wiped. The man said he didn't know how that happened and appeared to act confused. Indices checks were positive and it was noted that the man has been examined by CBSA in the past. [redacted] He was removed from his flight and taken to Secondary where he continued to be vague

He is unemployed

[redacted] When questioned further regarding his money, the man now said that he worked in a cash-paying job, however he had difficulty explaining what he did. Near the end of the exam, another traveller was removed from the same flight who said he was travelling with the man. He said that they will be starting a business [redacted] He could not explain the basics of the business and refused to answer questions about it. He then admitted that he intentionally wiped the phone and refused to answer any more questions. The equivalent of **\$11,389.57** was seized as suspected proceeds of crime with no terms of release.

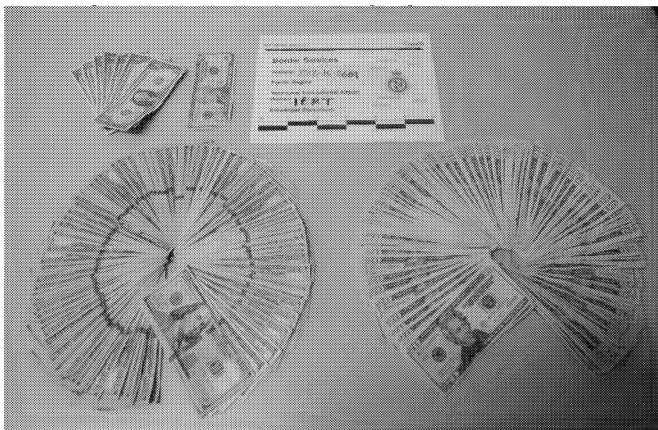
On May 10, [redacted] was roved post-security by **Manjit Pooni**. [redacted] was departing on [redacted] and **DD Jiggs** showed an interest in him. [redacted] said that he was under the reporting threshold but during a verification it was discovered that he was actually over. He said that all the currency was his but when asked for further details, he said that only a small portion of the money was from his bank account and the rest he borrowed from a friend. When marijuana was discovered in [redacted] carry-on

bag, Mandeep and **Attila Szalay** arrested and offloaded him while **Mike Nugent** and **Amandeep Saini** retrieved checked bags airside. In Secondary, laptop came back as stolen in CPIC



and he was arrested for possession of stolen property. was questioned at length about his money and he provided a bank receipt for \$2500 that he had withdrawn from his account. He said he had lent his friend \$10,000 a year ago and that she paid him \$7000 the day before. He provided inconsistent details regarding his friend and her money and asked for his portion of the money back saying, "this is between the law and her," (regarding her portion). A total of **\$10,040** was seized as suspected proceeds of crime, as was a gram of marijuana. RCMP took possession of the stolen laptop.

Here's an interesting one. On May 11, a resident of travelling with his wife and four companions to join an Alaskan cruise was approached by roved **Manvir Moore**. He had declared having more than \$10,000 and filled out a CBCR declaring \$14,841.44. He was found to have currency below what he reported and during the examination he admitted to giving his travelling companion US\$4000 to circumvent the reporting requirements. The travelling companion confirmed this. A count revealed that he now had the equivalent of \$20,030.73.



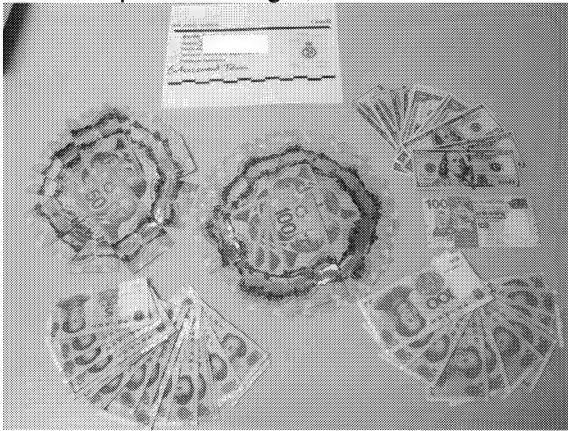
that he had a previous proceeds of crime currency seizure at the border.

. A total of **\$20,030.73** was seized as suspected proceeds of crime. He was found to be non-genuine and withdrew his application to enter Canada.

On the 16th, **Attila Szalay** roved a

man who was attempting to depart

The man said he had less than \$10,000 but he was selected for a currency verification and was found to have *more* than \$10,000. The man claimed the money was from the bank, however when asked to prove its origin,



asked to prove its origin,

The man was offloaded from the flight. Indices checks showed a previous 500g synthetic marijuana seizure against him in mail mode. When asked about this, he said someone else had used his information for the package but refused to say who.

A level four seizure was made on **\$10,076**.

On May 17, **Attila Szalay** roved a

man in the jet-way while he was attempting to board

The man was asked repeatedly how much currency he had but he refused to answer. The DDS gave a positive indication for currency and the man was again asked how much currency he had, and this time he said, "over". He was found to have multiple bundles of currency totalling **\$31,187**. The man claimed that \$8000 of it was his and that his friend had given him \$20,000 to take to

When asked for the friend's name and phone number, he could not provide it. When asked where his \$8000 came from,

He was offloaded from the flight

and once in Secondary, he changed his story and said that all of the money was his. He said that \$8000



When

asked if he could provide any financial records

for his cash, he said no. His cellphone revealed he loaned \$90,000 cash to an individual in April but when confronted, he denied doing so. The friend was contacted and confirmed he received \$90,000 from the man. Ultimately, a level four seizure was made on the \$31,187.

On May 18, a couple,

were roved by **Amandeep Saini** and selected for examina-

tion. They were asked at the carousel how much currency they had and both said they had approximately \$10,000 between them. When asked who had the money, the man pulled out a large bundle of currency. His wife said she had no money with her. When asked if she had a purse, she said no. When Amandeep pointed to a purse on their cart, the woman admitted that it belonged to her. When asked how much money she had in her purse, she hesitated and then her husband started yelling at her

She then pulled out a wallet that contained a small amount of money that appeared to be below the reporting threshold. When informed they would be examined, the husband and wife attempted to leave their bags containing their money with their friends. A baggage exam revealed that the husband had approximately US\$11,000 and his wife had US\$23,800. When asked if he had any more money, the husband hesitated but said no. At this point **Mike Nugent** advised that the couple's travel-

ling companions each had approximately US\$10,000. When asked again if they had more currency, the husband hesitated then said that they had given US\$20,000 to their friends to hold. The man admitted that all the currency his friend had belonged to him and that he lied because he did not want to declare it. He also admitted that he told his wife not to show the currency she had. A count revealed that the husband had **\$40,243.72** (seized at level two) while his wife had **\$30,666.30** (seized at level one).

On May 27, a [redacted] man returned from [redacted] with his mother, a visitor. She had reported \$35,000 in currency and had completed an E677 at the cashier. The man declared only \$200 in goods but was referred as a result of a hit by currency dog **Jiggs** and handler **Mike Nugent**. The man claimed to have \$8000 with him. He said that he had gone to [redacted] with no money and had taken \$8000 from his bank account [redacted]. He claimed that he had \$100,000 in the bank [redacted]. When asked why he brought \$8000 and not more, he explained that there is a lot of paperwork to bring currency out [redacted]. While examining one of his checked bags **Gord Peterson** found a pair of shoes, inside of each was a sock with a large bundle of Canadian currency. Altogether the man had **\$70,900**. He claimed that he did not report it because he was afraid he had too much currency with him. A level two seizure was completed and \$2500 was collected. Also, numerous packages of cosmetics and vitamins were found. The man said all of these items had been purchased by his wife. His wife was contacted and provided the website where she purchased them. **Wai-kay Shiu** checked the value of each one and found their value to be **\$23,600**. As the man still had \$500 remaining on his exemption the value of the cosmetics was reduced by \$500. The cosmetics and vitamins were seized at level one. TOR was \$6505.

Arif Jamal roved a [redacted] man in the jetway as he was boarding [redacted] May 28. The currency legislation was explained and the man said that he had not made a currency report. He then said that although he had not made a report, he had currency above the reporting threshold. He said that he had approximately £16,000. He was asked to explain where the money originated from, but he could not adequately explain its origin. ICES showed he had been the subject of a level one currency seizure by **Jeff Toh** in 2015. The man was offloaded from the flight and escorted to Secondary where a verification revealed Canadian, US and British currency totalling **\$35,493.32**. Due to the previous seizure, the currency was seized at level two and \$2500 was collected.

This last level four seizure was rather interesting. A [redacted] man arrived [redacted] May 30 and was referred for examination by **Cidney Wallesch**. During the exam, **Andrew Suitner** found **\$21,064** equivalent on the man and in his luggage. The man said that he was aware of the currency reporting requirements but thought it only applied to Canadian money. When asked if he had proof of the currency's origin he said that he threw away all the receipts [redacted]. He said that the money was to be used to spend on his clients in Vancouver and Toronto. He said that he is the owner of [redacted] however he was vague when asked for details. He said that [redacted] and had recently taken a \$2,000,000 loan. Upon questioned on the source of his currency, the man continued to be vague. He finally said that it came as a result of deceiving [redacted] into paying him a higher amount of commission than he legitimately earned. Indices checks revealed that the man had a warrant issued in 2012 for Fraud - Insufficient Check [redacted]. The man admitted that he had defrauded the [redacted] by not paying back loans. Since the man was unable to articulate the source of the undeclared currency and its legitimacy, a level four seizure was made. The man's departure was confirmed on [redacted] May 31.

employees of which are well-known for smuggling large quantities of cigarettes.

Chronic offender too tired to declare her ring. On May 26, a woman returning made a nil declaration. ICES showed that she has had three previous seizures made against her: currency by **Manjit Pooni** in November 2014, a \$9335 Vertu cell phone



seized by **Sharad Nair** in December 2014, and clothing worth \$49,132 seized at PIA in January. She also has an active warrant from GTA CIS for failure to attend court. While examining the woman's luggage, **Patrick Ridgley** noticed that she was wearing a high-value ring. The woman said that she believed that she declared it when she landed but said that she did not know its value. When questioned further, she said that she purchased it in 2013 for approximately \$50,000 and that this was the first time she was bringing it to Canada. She said that she was too tired to declare it. The prosecution warning (which she has probably memorized by now) was read to her and the ring was appraised at **\$43,500**.



strikes again! The second one on May 27 was a man returning on with his wife and son. He and his wife both work

They declared only two bottles of alcohol and were Point-referred by **Christopher Ko**. During a baggage exam, **Manjit Pooni** found nine undeclared cartons of cigarettes, and eleven more were under the lining of the suitcase. The man feigned ignorance and said his father must have packed them. He later admitted that all of the cigarettes were his and that he chose to hide them. Seventeen cartons were seized with no terms of release.

And again! Same day, same flight, a resident arriving from was roved at the carousel by **Ray Louie**. When asked about her employment, She was selected for examination and discovered in her baggage were undeclared alcohol, tobacco



and 3.7 kg of meat products. She was read the prosecution warning and spoke to counsel. In total, 25 cartons of various brands of cigarettes, obviously for sale, and a liter of alcohol were seized with no terms of release. An AAMP was issued for the meat.

IMMIGRATION

No work permit. We start with a nationality not frequently seen here. A man arrived on May 1 seeking entry for 30 days for tourism, however he could not say what he would like to see or do in Canada. He only had accommodations booked for five days at a hostel. **Gabriela Matamoras** referred

him to Secondary where **Julia Prinja** took the exam. The man's family was contacted. They revealed that the man was here to find work and establish himself before his wife and child emigrated to Canada. When confronted with this, the man initially denied it, however after further examination he admitted that he was coming for a better life and that he would sponsor his child and wife once established. He was excluded by MD **Pam Smith** and departed on that night.

No work permit. Then on May 4, a woman referred to Secondary for language, told **Sowmith Katragadda** that she was going to visit Edmonton for three days. When asked why, she said that she is on an adventure by herself and that she wants to see the beautiful city of Edmonton(!) and the

mountains of Banff. When informed that she cannot see Banff from Edmonton, she then said that she will hire a taxi to take her from Edmonton to Banff. She had only \$900, which might just about cover the cost of a taxi ride from Edmonton to Banff. When asked who was meeting her in Edmonton, the woman admitted that she was meeting her boyfriend. GCMS revealed that he no longer has status in Canada. The woman was asked to be completely honest and she confessed that she would like to work with her boyfriend while she is here. She was excluded.

No work permit. Same day, same flight, a man sought entry for 180 days to sightsee in BC and Alberta. He was on a one-way ticket purchased four days earlier. He claimed he would be visiting a friend in Edmonton but could not provide any contact information for her. He had no booked accommodations and



no plans. A referral by **Robin Sagarbarria** led to an examination by **Sierra Hoskins**. Sierra examined the man's cell phone and found messages about finding work on _____ farms in BC. When confronted, the man admitted he would be working on these farms. He said he lied because what he was doing was illegal. An exclusion order was issued and the man departed _____ that afternoon.

No work permit. The third exclusion on May 4 was made against a _____ man _____ who said he was here for 28 days. He said that he will stay at a hotel for one night, and then his friend will take him to a travel agency to book a tour. When **Marc Wong** asked to see his return ticket, he handed over an itinerary that showed his ticket was booked nine days before travel and his return flight was booked for September 1. When asked why he booked his flight last minute and why his return flight was four months away, he said that he was told to book the ticket this way because it is cheaper and he can change the ticket. A media examination revealed messages that stated, *"Have a smooth trip to your destination. Work well. Bring a good reputation to the family. I will assist your dad with all the work at home. As uncle my biggest hope is that you can work worry free."* And *"Work well and work hard and save good money and every year come back"*. When confronted, the man admitted he was coming to work _____. MD **Shannon Keenlyside** issued him an exclusion order and he left May 5. The PIL referral was by **Cidney Wallesch**.

No work permit x2. Exclusions four and five that day were referred by PIL officers **Poonam Sandhu** and **Sarah MacNeil**. In Secondary, a _____ man _____ told **Ivan Ho** that he planned to go to the Rocky Mountains and Granville Island for 25 days and was travelling alone with no friends or family in Canada. He then decided he had one friend in Canada and was going to live at his residence. The man later admitted he was coming to Canada to work as a dishwasher and was counselled to lie about his true intentions. Meanwhile, **Brad Van Loo** examined a _____ man who had identical trip plans and was staying at the same residence. This person also said he was travelling alone and is also unemployed. Later, the man admitted that he wants to work here _____. He met his contact through a website _____ and was told to board a plane for Canada and that on the plane would be another person seeking work in Canada. Two exclusion orders were issued.

No work permit. Exclusion number six was a _____ man who was seeking entry for 68 days to travel to Montreal. He said that he is a _____ and wants to visit Montreal because, as we all know, there is a "rich history there". During an exam, **Alex Bonnis** discovered that the man had quit his job and emptied his bank account, and that his ticket was purchased by his former boss who has a cousin in Montreal _____. An examination of the man's phone revealed messages saying that he would "do his best to increase the number _____ students in Canada," while other messages had the tone of a farewell, and still others instructed him on what to say to CBSA. When confronted with all of this, the man admitted what Alex already knew, that he was coming to Canada to teach _____. An exclusion order was issued by MD **Graham Moffat** and the man went back on _____ May 5. He had been referred by **Patrick Warezak**.



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No work permit. The last exclusion on May 4, a man was referred by **Christopher Ko**. The man said he was here to visit his cousin for 177 days. He said he had been to Vancouver in February but could not recall what he did other than going to Whistler. **Rosana Ma** examined the unemployed man's cell phone and found a conversation between him and his cousin offering work. Text messages also showed the cousin counselling the man to lie about why he was coming to Canada. When confronted, the man admitted that he was here to work for his cousin. He said he didn't have time to apply for a work permit. MD **Graham Moffat** excluded him and he departed the same night

No TRV. On May 6, **Jeremy Doiron** examined a woman who said she was here for 15 days. In May 2015, the woman was deemed inadmissible at Pearson Airport and an application was made and approved to cancel her TRV. Although the application was approved, the TRV was never physically cancelled.

When she was asked about any problems she has had with Immigration she only said that in 2003 she was denied a visa due to SARS. Later she admitted that she was also denied entry in 2015. She was asked if she had any correspondence with Immigration through email or letter and she adamantly maintained that she had not received any letters and even said she did not have an email address. However, GMCS correspondence messages proved that she had been sent the visa cancellation letter via email and letters. She was excluded and departed on the same day.

No TRV. On May 14, ex-national was encountered by rover **David Rosales** at the gate. was seeking entry for seven days and was an NTC target due to concerns about the authenticity of his TRV. told David that he was here to purchase a printing machine from a company in Vancouver and presented an invitation letter. did not know the price of the machine however, and could not recall the website where he had seen it for sale. Closer examination of his TRV revealed inconsistencies and checks revealed that was denied a TRV in the past due

to providing fraudulent documentation to support his TRV application. was subsequently excluded by MD **Brennan Loy**. eventually revealed his TRV was counterfeit and that he had paid approximately \$3300 to obtain it. The invitation letter and business card he had fabricated himself. His ultimate goal was to work illegally in Canada. Criminal Investigations attended and arrested for using a false document upon entry. He was placed in cells awaiting transport to Richmond

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RCMP cells. Later that evening, the on-watch BSOs noticed that [REDACTED] had moved out of camera view.

After [REDACTED] was medically cleared at Richmond Hospital he was transported to Richmond cells. CIS swore the following charges against [REDACTED]: IRPA Section 122(1)(a) possession of a fraudulent visa that purports to establish a person's identity; Section 122(1)(b) use of a fraudulent visa for the purpose of entering Canada; and Section 127(a) misrepresentation. A bail hearing was conducted and [REDACTED] was remanded in custody. His next court appearance is June 7.

No work permit. The next exclusion was on a [REDACTED] man May 17. He told PIL officer **Lisa White** that he intended to stay in Vancouver five months but was unable to name any places he would like to visit. The man said he had family in Canada, but they were not aware he was coming. In Secondary, when **Rahim Bajwa** asked the man for his family's contact details, he said that his phone was broken and he didn't have their information. He had accommodation at a hostel booked for only one week. The unemployed man collects social assistance and had only \$900 with him. An examination revealed documents pertaining to employment and tips on writing successful résumés. When questioned further, the man said that he will be looking for work as a cleaner in Vancouver. He said he didn't have enough time to apply for a work permit and also because he didn't have access to the internet.

No work permit. On the 19th, a [REDACTED] man [REDACTED] told PIL officer **Rohit Toor** that he was here for 25 days to visit Vancouver and Montreal. He had been in Canada from July to November 2015, but was unable to say much about what he did during his stay. He was also not able to provide any plans for this trip other than visiting a restaurant on Kingsway. He told **Shannon Parhar** that he owns a salon but couldn't explain why he had been away for most of 2015. He uses an alias and when that name was searched on Google it brought up numerous ads [REDACTED]. The man admitted that he worked [REDACTED] from August to November 2015 and that he was coming back to work. He was excluded with same day departure [REDACTED].

No work permit. On the 21st, a [REDACTED] man [REDACTED] sought entry for ten days to travel around Vancouver and see the aquarium and the mountains. He said that he also was planning to go snowboarding at a mountain that was only 20 minutes away from downtown Vancouver by taxi! **Will Tong** referred him to Secondary where **Carolina Escobar** conducted the exam. The man said he planned to go to a hostel and book a room for three nights. He was unsure what he would do after. He was found to have only CA\$340, US\$100 and a bank card with access to \$67. His return ticket was also found, revealing that it had been purchased by a third party. The man said that a friend had bought his ticket and that he was arriving in Vancouver in two weeks. It was later discovered that the friend had arrived on the same flight [REDACTED].

and had been free-carded. Through further questioning, the man finally admitted that he was planning to work in Vancouver in construction. An exclusion order was issued by MD **Alex Bonnis** and the man left that afternoon.

No ARC. On May 22, a man arriving sought entry for 10 days. He was referred as a lookout. In Secondary, the man told Patrick Ridgley that he had never travelled to Canada before, denied ever using another name, and insisted that he has never had problems with Immigration. Checks, however, showed that he was issued an inland deportation order in 2001. In 2004, after undergoing a legal name change and obtained additional citizenship, he sought entry at VIA using his new name. During that 2004 examination, the man's passport with a different name but same photo was found. He had applied for ARC in 2014 but it was refused due to his history of non-compliance with immigration law. He was spoken to further and admitted that he lied throughout the exam. CIS chose not to prosecute so the man was again deported, leaving on May 23.

No work permit. **Amandeep Saini** roved a woman May 25. She said she was here for 30 days to sightsee and visit her brother and sister-in-law. She did *not* have a return ticket. She said that she was previously in Canada for five months. When asked why she returned so quickly (she had only left Canada on March 3), she said that she wanted to see Butchart Gardens but could not elaborate any further. When asked what her sister-in-law did in Canada, she said that she worked in White Rock. After further questioning the woman admitted that she too had worked on her previous trip and that she was back to work again. MD **Attila Szalay** issued her an exclusion order.

No work permit. Also on May 25, a man said he was going to Toronto to visit his friend for ten days. GCMS checks revealed that in 2014 he was refused a TRV because the visa officer suspected that the man misrepresented himself on his visa application regarding employment. The man said that he works as a manager but he could not provide any other details. When **Jeremy Doiron** told the man that he was going to contact his friend, the man said that his friend might give different information about his employment. When Jeremy began examining the man's phone, the man said that life was no good. Jeremy asked him if he was here to work and he said yes, his friend in Toronto found him a job. The man was found inadmissible and was excluded.

No TRV. Still on the 25th, a man arrived to transit to . He was a mandatory referral as he did not have a valid US visa, making him ineligible for TWOV/CTP. When **Kimberly Cheung** asked him what status he held in the U.S., he said that he didn't have any, which USCBP confirmed. He had been admitted as a visitor to the U.S. in 2002 and just stayed there. The man said he was not made aware of the requirement of a TRV. He was excluded and was removed

No work permit. On May 26, a man, who said he will sightsee around Vancouver for 180 days was referred for examination by **Derrick Tsang**. The man was almost he was unemployed and had quit his job shortly before travel; he had limited funds for six months and was in significant debt; his luggage contained clothing related to his work; his cell phone contained messages related to working in Canada and stating his intention to stay in Canada for five years. When **Jason Fraser** confronted with all of this, the man acknowledged that he was here to work. MD **Preet Bhuller** issued him an exclusion order.



No work permit, no memory, non-genuine. The first of two on May 27 was a man () who said he was here for 90 days to sightsee and look for a school for his son. He had been in Canada from November 2015 to April 2016 but was unable to specify what he did during that time. He told **Daniel Lurie**

that he found a school for his son on the last trip but he was unable to name the school. He said he was in the process of applying for a study visa for his son using a consultant but he was unable to name the consultant. He said that his reception owns a restaurant but he denied working there. The man's baggage contained mostly food for his reception's restaurant as well as menus and signs. No clothing was inside. The man's mother was contacted and said that her son had been "helping at his cousin's restaurant" when he was here before. The man's reception initially denied any knowledge of the man working at her restaurant but later admitted that he did "help out" at her restaurant several times a week standing in for the owners. MD **Pam Smith** issued an exclusion order. Thanks to **Darren Lal** for that referral.

No work permit. Next was a () man who arrived () seeking entry for 45 days to visit friends. He said he had visited Canada last year for three months but was unable to articulate what he did last year or what he would see or do in Canada this trip. **Tal Bahia** examined the man's electronic media and

found images showing the man wearing a () hat, work boots and a vest, working on a site in Richmond. System checks reveal he had been deported from the United States twice in 2014 and once in 2015. They also revealed he had crossed the US border at Lynden in October, eluding examination. An exclusion order was issued by MD **Naush Mahmood** and the man went back May 28.

No work permit. On May 28, **Darren Lal** examined a () man () seeking entry to visit daughter who is here on a work permit. He was here from July to December last year, and after further questioning he admitted he worked as a picker during the summer and in () jobs after the () season ended. He

admitted that he would resume work wherever he could have for cash to support himself and his family. Evidence of his cash jobs were found in a diary listing how much he was paid each day and how much he was owed by the employer for the amount of work he did in Canada. The man was excluded and departed the same day

No work permit. A () man () May 29 sought entry for 150 days for tourism but had difficulty saying what he wanted to see or do. GCMS showed a work permit refusal in February, and when **Julia Prinja** asked him about it, the man said that he simply changed his mind and did not want to work any

more. A call to his mother revealed that he was actually here to work, and when confronted with this, the man admitted that he *may* work, but later retracted this statement. He was excluded nonetheless.



No work permit. On May 30, **Sierra Hoskins** referred a man who said he was here for 74 days to go to Calgary and Toronto before returning to Vancouver and then flying to Costa Rica. When asked why he was going to Costa Rica, the man said the airline would not let him board the plane unless he had a flight out of Canada. He decided on Costa Rica because "it was cheap". His reception, meanwhile, admitted that the man would be working at his repair shop in Calgary. When **Carolina Escobar** confronted the man, he denied it but conceded that he would look into applying for a working holiday. He was found to have been convicted of marijuana possession and had misrepresented himself when applying for his eTA. An exclusion order was issued by MD **Robin Sagarbarria**.

No work permit. Also on May 30, a man sought entry for 180 days to see a friend in White Rock and sightsee. He said that he would travel to Banff, "the waterfalls, and the canyons" but could not elaborate beyond that. **Devon Dhaliwal** examined the man's luggage, finding work gloves, wrenches, and socket tools. The man said he brought them along so that he can help his reception settle into her new house. When further pressed about his intentions, the man admitted that his reception had set up job interviews for him. He knew of the work permit requirements but failed to apply for one. He went back to on May 31. **Birgit DeJong** had made the PIL referral.

No work permit, serious criminality. On May 31, a man roved by **Jeff Toh** at the carousel was seeking entry for a one-month vacation. He said he was here last year for two months but it was discovered that he was actually here for six months and had worked illegally. His Canadian contacts confirmed this and said that he was back to resume work. The man had answered "no" to all the questions on his eTA including criminality. When told that checks with police would be conducted, he admitted he had been drinking and driving which resulted in an accident that caused serious injury to another

person. He subsequently was convicted of driving while intoxicated causing bodily harm. An exclusion order was issued by MD **Manvir Moore**. The man departed on June 1.

AGRICULTURE

On May 6, a [redacted] student returning on [redacted] indicated yes to the FPA question. PIL officer **Giovanni Rosini** asked her about food and if she was bringing in meat products. She said no and was subsequently free-carded but was intercepted at the carousel by DDH **Nicole Bussanich** and DD **Ashton**. Nicole noticed that the woman had originally indicated yes on her E311 and asked what food she declared at PIL. The woman said "*burgers*". When asked what else, she said, "*fish and pork*". Nicole referred the woman to **Johnson Cheng**, who confirmed with Giovanni that the woman had said she was only bringing in fish. When Johnson confronted the woman with her conflicting statements, she admitted that she lied at PIL. Approximately 7.5 kg of pork and beef products were found, including burgers, hotdogs and sausages. An AAMP was issued and paid same day.

Oh, brother. Then on May 10, a [redacted] woman arrived [redacted] seeking entry to visit her daughter for 180 days. When asked by **Alan Lu** at PIL if she had any food products she said she only had dried vegetables and bean curd paste. **Ryan Brazier** examined the woman's luggage and found 43 undeclared goose eggs. When asked why she did not declare them, she said that she was only asked her if she had any food products, she did not think goose eggs were food products, she said they were snacks. An AAMP was issued and penalty paid.

More undeclared "snacks". **Preet Bhuller** made the next big FPA seizure when she examined a [redacted] man who arrived on [redacted] May 15. His E311 showed he declared "nuts", and a

[redacted] blue pen mark on the card indicated "no meat." Examination of the man's baggage however, revealed 8.4kg of chicken, beef, pork and duck. When Preet asked why he didn't declare the meat, the man said that he didn't think to declare them because he considers them snacks. An AAMP was issued and penalty paid same day. **Braeden Sinilaid** made the referral.

The first of two AAMPs on May 16 was made against a [redacted] man, a former PR, who arrived [redacted]. **Bunty Meldrum** examined him and found 3.35kg of pork products and 5.62kg of duck meat. The man had attempted to conceal the meat by using large amounts of Saran wrap and placing the pork into packaging labelled as duck products, like that makes a difference. He was asked why he didn't declare the meat and he said, "*the items were not raw*". Two separate NOVs were completed and the man paid the reduced penalty of \$650 x 2.

The next AAMP was issued by **Johnson Cheng** on a Richmond man and his family who were returning from and were an ABC random referral. They were asked about food items and declared mangoes and vegetables only. Exam of first checked bag revealed a package which they said contained dried fish. There were two packs of dried fish on top but underneath were 1.5kg of sausages. They were asked if they had any more meat in their luggage but said, "*only this pack*". Exam of the rest of their checked luggage revealed half of them to be full of food: meat, fish, seafood, dairy products, fruits, vegetables and nuts. In addition, more sausages were packed in a similar fashion. Three kilos of undeclared sausages were found. When asked why they didn't declare the meat they said, "*we thought only dried beef is considered as meat but we have pork*". The reduced AAMP penalty was paid the same day.

On the 17th, a Vancouver man and his wife, returned and were roved by **Aman-deep Saini** and taken into Secondary. Upon examination of the man's carry-on bag a large amount of currency was discovered which was well over the reporting threshold. An examination of his checked

bag was also resultant for 3.1 kg of various undeclared meat products (boiled eggs, 100-year-old eggs, chicken feet, bison meat, pork, beef, etc.). When asked why he failed to declare the food, the man simply said he made a mistake. His **\$20,169.68** in currency was seized at level one. He was also issued a \$1300 AAMP. Penalties of \$650 and \$250 were paid.

Food smugglers needed more time. On May 18, three North Vancouver residents arriving from the were referred to Secondary as one was an ABC random referral. The family had only declared snacks and "delicacies". When **Asha Chitchot** asked what they meant by "delicacies", they said candies and salted peas. When asked if they had any other food or agriculture items, the woman said, "*no, only candies,*" and proceeded to show dried pineapples. An examination, however, revealed that all of their boxes contained food, plant products, alcohol, and tobacco. When asked why these items weren't declared, the woman said that she was not given enough time to declare the rest of her food, despite having had opportunities to declare it all at PIL, Secondary, and at the X-ray machine. Their food consisted of sausages, canned liver, noodles containing meat, milk powder, leaves, taro root with soil, beef mixtures, chicken spread, and ham spread. Along with this, there were eight cartons of cigarettes and four liters of whiskey. An AAMP was issued and \$650 was collected.



The next day, a man declared that he had exceeded his exemption and had agriculture items. The agriculture referral was cleared by Triage but the cashier referred the man to Secondary to verify the couple's combined declaration of \$17,900. When **Geoff Lugar** asked what the

goods were, the man said they were traditional medicines, hence the agriculture declaration. A baggage exam revealed a box and a bag containing 48 pill bottles. The box had a picture and an interpreter verified that the writing stated the pills were dehydrated gall bladder. Environment Canada asked us to hold the items for CITES verification.

On May 21, a man from was referred to Agriculture by DDS **Barry Kohli** and DD **Whiskey**. He and his family had returned from and when **Rosana Ma** asked if he had any meat, the man said that his mother-in-law *may* have packed some. Homemade pork sausages and duck/chicken legs were found, and when asked if there was any other food or meat products, the man said no. Examination of other bags however, revealed undeclared beef jerky and cured meats in the bag that the man claimed only contained bread. When asked why he didn't declare the meat he said that he thought that cooked meat was okay. When told that he had said there was no other meat in his baggage, he changed his statement and claimed that he said there was meat. An AAMP was issued and the man paid the reduced fine.

Johnson Cheng issued another AAMP on May 24 after examining a man who had returned and declared "no" to all E311 questions. His bags were a hit by DD **Ashton**



and handler **Nicole Bussanich**. At store-front, Johnson found 1.5kg of goose eggs, 1.5kg of beef and 550g of raw chicken inside the man's checked luggage. When he was asked why he didn't declare his food he said that he thought cooked items were allowed and didn't need to be declared. When he was asked why he didn't declare the raw chicken, he admitted that, *"I couldn't resist because my mom gave them to me"*. The reduced penalty was paid.

Bad memory costs man \$650. Lastly, **Rob Guerriero** examined a _____ man who arrived on _____ May 28. His luggage had been indicated on by DD **Ashton**. When questioned by the dog handlers, the man repeatedly said that he only had noodles. Eventually he admitted to having sausages and garlic in his luggage as well. Upon examination, a 2.5 kg uncooked roast of beef was found, along with two kg of sausages and a kilo of raw garlic. The man said he forgot the food was in his luggage. He was issued a \$1300 AAMP and paid the reduced fine of \$650.

Twenty-five years ago...from the *VIA Intelligence Bulletin* of May 1991

As a result of a watch-for issued by Dave Savelieff on WWF wrestlers, an exam was conducted on a _____ man. He was here for a wrestling exhibition at the Coliseum later that night. Mark Northcote conducted the exam and seized 51 vials of steroids found in his luggage. The frisk conducted on him was quite a sight to see, this man being 6'6" and 310 lbs. Mark had to frisk one side of him and then walk around to his other side to complete the frisk. He had arrived on _____ May 24th.

The largest drug seizure of the month began on May 29th with a _____ citizen arriving on _____ He had travelled _____ Bruce Kipling had sent him in on a code 1 and he was picked off by Jim Schmidt of the CDT. The man's story was that he was in the clothing and cosmetics business and that he went to _____ get samples (which he did have). It was later learned that he went AWOL from the U.S. military last February after being charged with drug trafficking and other offenses. He was determined to be questionable enough to hold on suspicion of swallowing narcotics. The following day he was taken before a judge who reserved decision until the next day. On the 31st he was brought before a different judge who was reluctant to make a decision of this nature on a Friday. The man was ordered held until the following Monday (June 3) until court at 9:30. This was all the time that was needed as he passed 39 bundles of heroin only three hours before he was to go back in front of the judge on Monday. The total weight was 410 grams. As I&I boss Al Morancy noted, "It all comes out in the end."

Just another day at the office

Level four currency seizure at the Blue Water Bridge. On May 24, , driving a commercial motor vehicle, was referred for a selective exam. The BSO met at the cab. Four bundles of currency were found in the refrigerator in the sleeper area of the cab. The currency was wrapped in clear plastic and then covered with black duct tape. \$117,900 was seized at level four as proceeds of crime. The RCMP attended and took custody of the currency and the truck. has been released, with charges pending.

Hundreds of migrants from the Caribbean fly 6,000 miles to Turkey in bid to enter Europe while posing as being from Somalia

Hundreds of migrants from the Caribbean are travelling more than 6,000 miles to enter the European Union through Greece.

Instead of trying to get into the United States a few hundred miles to the north, many are making the journey across the Atlantic to Istanbul in Turkey. From there, they travel along the coast to join thousands of refugees on the perilous crossing of the Aegean to the Greek islands. On arrival some claim to be from Somalia or even from Syria or Afghanistan in an attempt to gain asylum and get free travel across most of the EU.

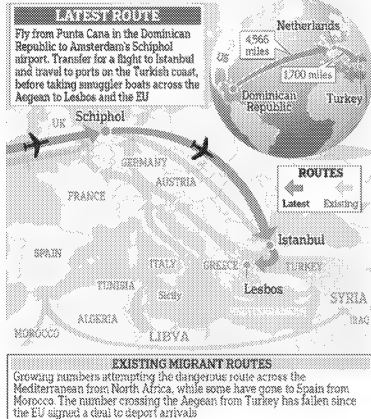


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THEIR EPIC JOURNEY TO REACH EU



Last year almost 400 migrants came to Greece from the Caribbean, the vast majority from the Dominican Republic. And a further 150 have arrived from the Dominican Republic in the first three months of this year.

It confirms suspicions that economic migrants are using the European refugee crisis to enter the continent. More than a million people tried to enter the EU by sea last year, with many making the boat crossing from Turkey to Greek islands such as Lesbos.

EU border guard Anna Smigielska, whose job is to interview migrants arriving on Lesbos to identify their nationality, said: 'For us it seems strange, but they say it's one of the easiest ways to get into Europe. I asked some of them, how is it you are coming this route? They say there are cheap flights and they don't need visas for Turkey, so it is not so hard.'

In one case, a migrant from Haiti claimed to be from Syria. She said: 'We kept

saying, "You don't speak Arabic and, frankly, you don't look like you are from Syria," but he kept insisting he was. Finally, we said, "You really have to say you are from somewhere other than Syria." He replied, "OK, I'm from Afghanistan." Only after a long time did he admit to being from Haiti.'

They fly from the resort of Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic to Schiphol airport in Amsterdam and transfer for a flight to Istanbul, where they are believed to pay smuggling gangs to organise passage over sea to Greece.



A spokesman for EU border agency Frontex said: 'Although geographically it is an extreme form of travel to go from the Dominican Republic, once a route is established by genuine refugees other economic migrants tend to follow because they know it is a way.'

Similarly, many migrants from Morocco travel through Greece rather than crossing the Mediterranean to Spain. Concerns about Caribbean migrants entering Europe through Turkey were first raised five years ago by Dutch officials.

It was sparked by Dutch carrier KLM noting the high number of 'no shows' on return flights from

Istanbul to the Dominican Republic via Amsterdam, which travellers from the island are required to book before entering Turkey.

And Frontex said in 2012 a group arrived on a land border between Greece and Turkey, refusing to speak other than to say that they were from Somalia. Only when a translator spoke to them in their native Spanish did they realise they were from the Dominican Republic.

The majority arriving on the Greek islands are from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. But last year, the Greek coast-guard also registered 351 migrants from the Dominican Republic, eight from Haiti, two Cubans, one Jamaican, two from Honduras and two from Colombia. (*Daily Mail*)

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European officials call for more Schengen controls

Top internal affairs officials from European countries called for heightened border controls and assistance to border countries under disproportionate pressure from the wave of migrants.



A statement issued by officials of Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and non-EU member Norway called for establishing a European Border Guard and for reinforcing Frontex, the EU agency for the management of operational cooperation at the external borders.

The statement also focused on IT systems, which needed upgrading so that systematic controls could be introduced while maintaining the right to free movement within the EU.

They noted that establishing EU border registration systems were expensive and required a great deal of work from border countries. They also called on the European External Action Service to increase its cooperation with third countries to facilitate the return of migrants.

Hungary's Justice Minister Laszlo Trocsanyi pointed out that since other countries had neglected to do so, Hungary had been forced to register 190,000 migrants despite Dublin rules calling for their registration in the first EU country they entered. He also noted that Hungary's national-level regulations have proved successful in alleviating the flow of migrants.

Other leaders called the proposed measures a way to strengthen the EU, not weaken it.

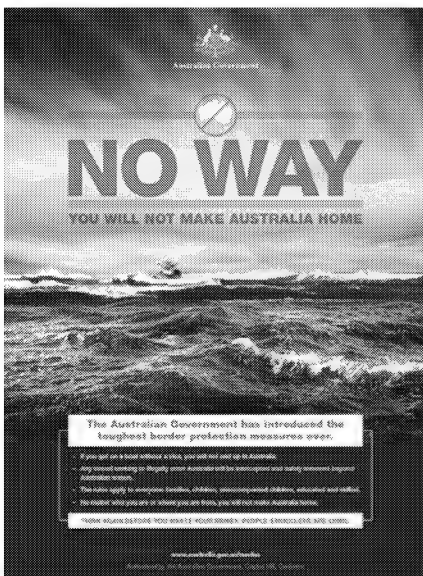
Polish Internal Affairs official Jakub Skiba offered his country as headquarters for the European Border Guard as it already was home to Frontex.

Romanian Internal Affairs State Secretary Tiberiu Trifan said his country, an EU member but not within the Schengen zone, was reinforcing all external borders in hope of admission to the inner EU zone.

Norway's Internal Affairs State Secretary Ove Andre Vanebo said his country planned to build a fence along its external border, working in cooperation with its Russian neighbor. (*Manila Bulletin*)

CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND AGRICULTURE AROUND THE WORLD

Australia – Australia deports 12 Sri Lankan asylum seekers



Australia has deported the 12 Sri Lankan asylum seekers, who arrived within the Cocos Islands via sea in a boat on May 2, and they have returned to Sri Lanka May 6.

The asylum seekers arrived at the Bandaranaike International Airport May 6 in a special Australian flight. A woman and two children were among the deportees, authorities said. All the deportees were arrested on arrival and handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department by the Immigration and Emigration officers, an official said.

Australian authorities intercepted the boat with the 12 Sri Lankan asylum seekers when it came near the Cocos Islands, a territory of Australia. Australian Federal Police met the boat and escorted it to a mooring and the asylum seekers were then taken aboard an ABF vessel.

It was the first asylum seeker boat reported to have arrived in Australia in nearly two years.



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Australia – Heroin lands traveller arriving from Cambodia a date with court

A 52-year-old Vietnamese-born Australian citizen is due to appear in Melbourne Magistrate's Court May 9 charged with attempting to import approximately four kilograms of heroin.



An Australian Border Force officer at Melbourne Airport targeted the woman for a baggage examination when she arrived on a flight from Cambodia. During the examination, an x-ray identified suspicious substances concealed within hammocks carried by the passenger. Testing of the substances indicated the presence of heroin. The matter was then referred to the Australian Federal Police and the woman was subsequently arrested.

Australia – Border Force accused of wearing fake uniforms to campaign against Turnbull

Border Force officials have been accused by their bosses of wearing fake uniforms while campaigning for a Coalition defeat in the upcoming election. A senior Immigration Department manager issued the warning after Border Force public servants, angry about their two-year pay dispute, rallied at Sydney Airport to kick off their campaign to have the Turnbull government voted out.



The event was the launch of a union-led campaign to put the wage dispute between Immigration and Border Force public servants and the Coalition government on the election agenda and featured unions members wearing black pants and T-shirts clearly marked with the Community and Public Sector Union's logo.

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But according to senior Immigration official Jill Charker, the protesters' clothes "simulated" the controversial border agency's official ensemble and she wants them to cease and desist, pointing out that the public service is supposed to be "apolitical".

"Some of our employees chose to participate in a rally, which actively promoted voting against a political party," Dr Charker wrote to staff. "These employees chose to wear clothing that simulated the Australian Border Force uniform, which included the words 'Border Protection Officer' on the back and 'Protecting our Community' on the front.

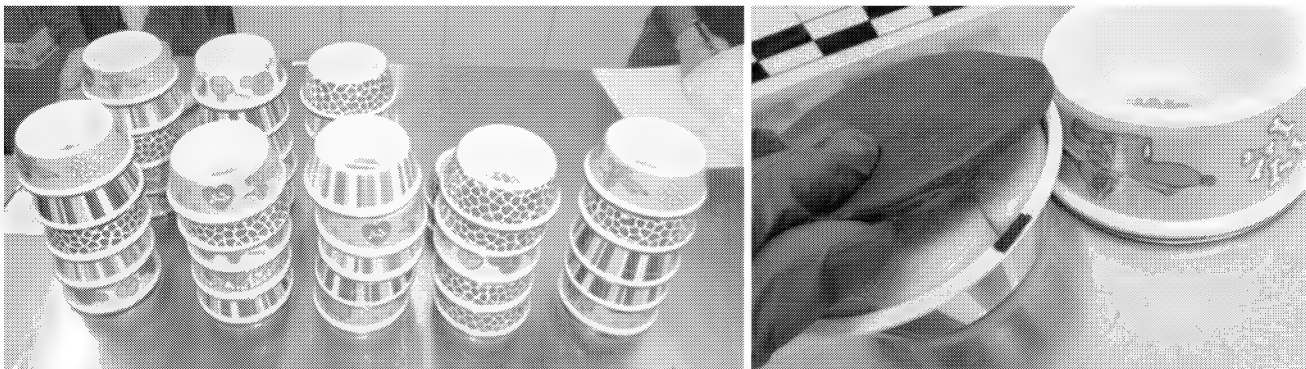
"This type of action has the potential to associate the official activities of the department with the rally in the eyes of the public and undermine the community's perception of the department. The Australian Public Service is apolitical. As employees of the APS we have a responsibility to maintain the confidence of the community by being professional and impartial."

Dr Charker pointed to her department's guidance for employees undertaking political activities that clearly states workers should not wear anything to such events that might identify them as Commonwealth public servants. "We hold a privileged position in the community and it is our obligation to maintain the professional image of the department at all times," she wrote. "I remind all employees of their obligations as public servants."

Australia – 8.4 kilograms of ephedrine found in dog bowls

Australian Border Force investigators have arrested and charged a 20-year-old man with importing approximately 8.4 kilograms of ephedrine in dog bowls.

On 12 May 2016, ABF officers targeted a parcel from China addressed to a residence in Strathfield, NSW. The officers examined the parcel of 42 dog bowls which were found to have concealments of powder in the bottom of each bowl. Initial testing of the substance was positive for ephedrine.



Following further investigation and warrant activity, the man was charged with intentionally importing prohibited tier 1 goods, contrary to Section 233BAA(4) of the *Customs Act* 1901, which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and or a fine not exceeding \$180,000 or both.

Australia – Man charged with importing 10kg steroids

Australian Border Force investigators have arrested and charged a 57-year-old **Canadian** citizen with importing approximately 10 kilograms of performance and image enhancing drugs (PIEDs) without a permit.

Between 13 April and 5 May 2016, Australian Border Force officers at the Sydney International Mail Centre intercepted 10 packages, which contained a total of 10 kilograms of PIEDs, including testosterone.

On 19 May, ABF investigators conducted warrant activity at a residential premise and a storage facility in Sydney locating more PIEDs, as well as substances and equipment that can be used in the manufacture of steroids.



The ABF charged the man with intentionally importing prohibited tier 1 goods, contrary to Section 233BAA(4) of the *Customs Act* 1901. The man was bailed to appear in Burwood Local Court on 9 June.

Australia – Thousands of cigarettes seized at Melbourne Airport

Australian Border Force officers have seized almost 50,000 cigarettes which were smuggled into Australia by a Chinese national. The officers selected the 60-year-old man for a baggage examination after he arrived on a flight from China on 22 May.



During an examination of the man's baggage the officers located 49,120 cigarettes, which would have a duty payable of \$29,524.

Australia – Woman charged with importing methamphetamine into Perth

A Taiwanese national will appear before the Perth Magistrates Court charged with importing about one kilogram of methamphetamine.

Australian Border Force officers conducted an examination of the woman's baggage after she arrived at Perth International Airport on a flight from Hong Kong on 30 May. The ABF officers' examination revealed five vacuum-sealed bags which contained a white crystalline substance.



Initial testing of the substance was positive for methamphetamine. Further testing will be conducted to determine the exact weight and purity of the substance.

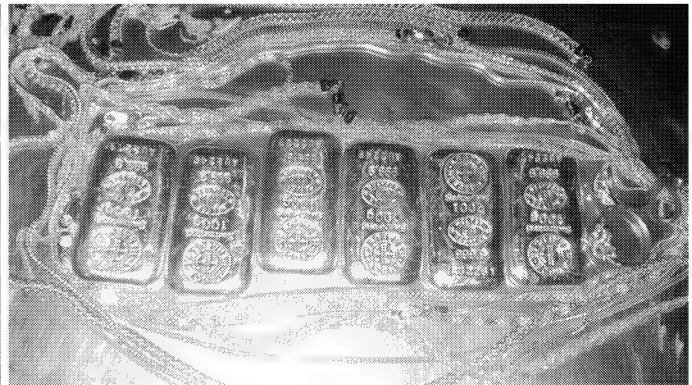
Bahamas – Surinamese woman arrested for cocaine smuggling at LPIA

An adult woman from Suriname is in custody following the seizure of a quantity of cocaine at The Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) by Drug Enforcement Unit Officers on Tuesday 10th May 2016.

Around 2:30pm, officers from the Drug Enforcement Unit on duty at LPIA, conducted a search of the woman's luggage when she arrived on an international flight and found just over seven pounds of cocaine. The woman was subsequently arrested and is expected to appear in court to be formally charged.

Bangladesh – Bangladesh smuggler arrested with gold 'hidden in backside'

A man has been arrested at Dhaka's airport for trying to smuggle 600g of gold in six bars hidden in his backside, officials say. The 32-year-old man told officials he hoped to get 30,000 Bangladeshi taka (£261) for his service.



A 100g (0.22lb) gold chain has also been seized. The gold is reportedly worth 3m taka (£26,000; \$38,400).

The man has confessed to smuggling but no further information has been released. (BBC News)

Bangladesh – 15kg gold seized at Dhaka airport

Customs officials on May 12 seized around 15 kilograms of gold from an aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

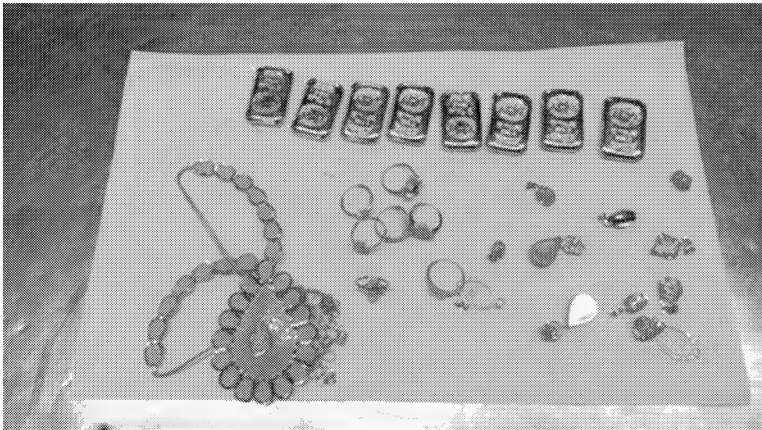
Acting on a tip-off, officials of Dhaka Customs House searched the aircraft of the national flag carrier that landed at the airport around 6:00pm from Bangkok. The customs officials started the search after all the passengers dis-

embarked from the plane and recovered gold bars from a toilet of the aircraft in an abandoned condition. The gold bars were left at the toilet in several bags wrapped with scotch tape.

The recovered gold weighs around 15 kg and is worth about Tk 75 million (\$1,250,200), he added.

Bangladesh – Gold recovered from man's rectum at Dhaka airport

Customs officials detained a person with eight gold bars hidden inside his body at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport May 13.



Soon after boarding off from a Dubai flight around 5:13pm, Md Abu Bakar was challenged by the customs authorities for having gold bars with him, Rezaul Karim, assistant commissioner of customs, said.

Bakar denied, but later admitted carrying the gold bars, fearing he might have undergone surgery, the customs official said. Later, at the airport toilet, he managed to push the gold bars, worth Tk 4.5 million (\$75,000), through his rectum, Rezaul added.

One hundred grams of ornaments were also recovered from his possession. (*Daily Star*)

Bangladesh – 84 gold bars seized at Dhaka airport

Customs Intelligence officials detained a man with 84 gold bars May 28 at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. The detainee Abul Hossain, 35, landed at the airport around 6am in a flight coming from Qatar.



Director General of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Department (CIID) Moinul Khan said that gold bars and some jewellery weighing 9.89kg were seized from Abul Hossain which had an estimated value of Tk45 million (\$747,200). The gold bars were strapped around his waist, hidden under the clothes, he added.

Meanwhile, CIID Assistant Director Tarek Mahmud said the detainee Abul had fixed a deal with someone from a Baitul Mukarram shop to carry the gold for Tk50,000. He was supposed

to keep the gold in one of the toilets at the airport. In primary interrogation, Abul Hossain claimed that a cleaner working inside the airport was supposed to collect and take the gold bars outside the airport.

AD Tarek said: "During interrogation, we have found a mobile phone number of someone named Dulal who might be involved in the crime. We are also looking into other phone numbers in Abul's mobile phone."

He said the seized gold will be deposited to Bangladesh Bank soon, adding that Assistant Revenue Officer Azizul Islam has filed a case with the Airport police in this regard and the detainee has been handed over to the police.

Bangladesh – Man gets life for gold smuggling

A court in Chittagong has sentenced a man to life in jail on charge of smuggling gold from abroad. The convicted person is Abdullah Al Amin, hailing from Raozan upazila in the port city.

Chittagong Metropolitan Session Judge Md Shahenur passed the order on May 30 against Al Amin who was a Dubai expatriate, said Public Prosecutor Md Fakhruddin. PP Fakhruddin said that the court also fined the convicted with Tk10,000 in default to suffer three months jail more.

According to the case statement, Al Amin, a Dubai expatriate, was detained by Directorate of Customs Intelligence and Investigation in possession with 54 gold bars worth Tk30 million (\$500,460) in Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport after he landed by a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines on September 21, 2014.

Bangladesh – 5-m foreign currency seized at Shahjalal

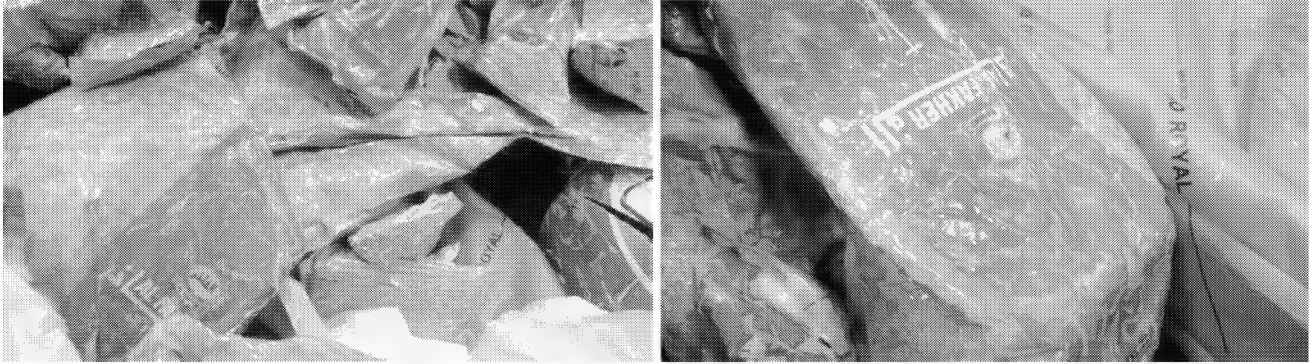
A team of customs intelligence and investigation department seized foreign currencies worth around five million taka (\$83,330) from a Dubai-bound passenger at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport May 31. The detainee was identified as Nizamul Haque Farayezi, 35.

Customs intelligence and investigation director general Dr. Moinul Khan said that they seized 10,300 Qatari riyals, 2,400 Jordanian dinars, 7,950 Omani rials, 1,250 Bahraini dinars, 49,700 UAE dirhams and 3,850 Kuwaiti dinars from the detainee. Intelligence personnel detained Farayezi at external lounge of Qatar Airlines, he added.

Being tipped-off, they caught Farayezi and seized the foreign currencies from his bag, the DG added.

Belgium – Water pipe tobacco in hair lotion

A man (French nationality), who came from Doha via Dubai was stopped by the customs service. In his luggage, a big bag was found which smelled like hair lotion. In the bag, 24 one kg. parcels of green Al Fakher water pipe tobacco were found, covered with hair lotion. The hair lotion was added to mask the smell of the shisha.



The man (19/05/1986) from Saint Denis was released, his luggage was seized.

Canada – Three “firsts” wrapped up in Emerson gun seizure

On May 4, two Emerson BSOs made their first firearm seizure using a combined interview and search effort. It was also the first gun seized at Emerson in 2016.



What began as an immigration referral and a general secondary inspection from primary inspection Officer Keith Rodewald, evolved into a first firearm seizure for Officer Jennifer Ilkew (seizing) and Officer Kyle Erhart (assisting). The subject, a 61-year-old female from Illinois was transiting through to Alaska in her SUV and towing a fully-loaded trailer.

At secondary, Jennifer asked the traveller about her citizenship and purpose of her trip, and then asked her if she had a ‘carry and conceal license,’ to which the traveller replied that she had one in Illinois. When Jennifer proceeded to ask the traveller about the type of guns she owned: “Instead of answering my question directly the traveller said she didn’t have any in the vehicle and then proceeded to tell me she had a 380 semi-automatic in Illinois but she had sold it to a friend, but couldn’t provide any more details,” said Jennifer.

The traveller told Jennifer she had the gun for personal protection but didn’t want to take it to Alaska with her because she was going to be living in the country and wouldn’t need it there. This seemed a little odd to Jennifer who asked the traveller if she had done any research into sending the gun to Alaska or bringing it through Canada to which the traveller replied again that “she didn’t have the gun in the vehicle,” again avoiding answering the question directly.

“It seemed as though she was really thinking about what to say next, like she didn’t quite know the answers to the questions and was carefully considering her words,” said Jennifer. “I just felt there was something more to her story since she said she had a gun for protection and it seemed odd that she would’ve sold it.”

The traveller had also answered “no” to any previous arrests or criminality but a records check indicated otherwise.

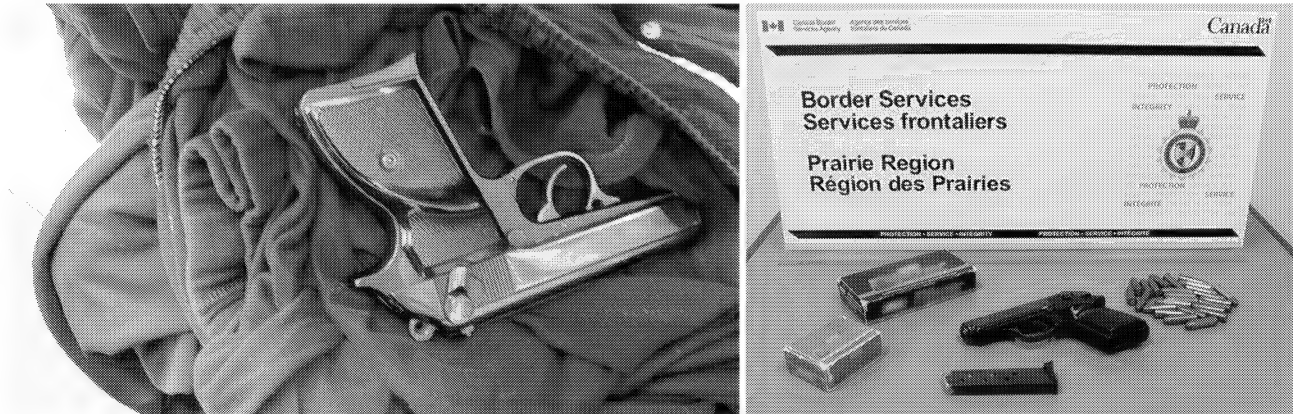
Jennifer felt she was on to something and approached Kyle Erhart who happened to be on the traffic side from commercial. “I was dropping off a form and Jen asked me if I could assist with an exam,” said Kyle. “After the seizure, I thought I should come over to Traffic more often to drop off more forms,” joked Kyle.

Kyle entered the interview room and introduced himself to the traveller and shook her hand. “I do this with every interview, unless there’s a safety reason not to, to establish rapport with the client,” said Kyle. “I agreed with Jennifer and proceeded to question the traveller from a personal perspective. I asked her if she were in my shoes if she would believe what I was telling her. It seemed to resonate with her.”

It must have because at that point, the traveller admitted that the pistol was in the trailer. She later attempted to retract this statement after speaking with a lawyer. Officers completed a search of the vehicle and the only item of interest was an empty holster found in a laptop bag. The trailer exam initially revealed a bag inside a box full of clothing and hats with ammunition for a 380 gun and for another unknown firearm.

"Even though she had told us there was a firearm in the trailer, we continued the search with caution because we didn't know what we would find, since her story was inconsistent throughout the interview," said Jennifer.

A couple more hours into the exam, the traveller asked to speak to Jennifer and told her the gun was in a hotel bag in the side door area of the trailer. She then apologized for not telling officers where the firearm was before. Five minutes later, officers located a handgun in the bag wrapped in clothing. The firearm had five rounds in the magazine and one round in the chamber.



"It was the first gun seizure for both of us, so it was pretty exciting," said Jennifer. "What started as an immigration interview, turned into us locating a loaded firearm which was something I didn't initially expect."

"It's not always about finding the big stuff, sometimes it's about putting the pieces together and you don't know where that will lead," said Kyle. "I can't underestimate or overstate the importance of conducting quality interviews because little bits of information can result in a big seizure down the road."

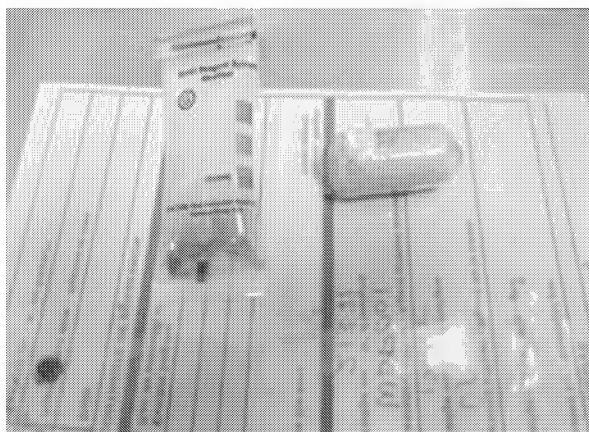
Criminal investigations declined to press charges against the subject and she was released upon paying a \$1,000 vehicle penalty and issued an Allowed to Leave based on her previous criminality.

Kyle's advice when conducting an interview "be professional, be respectful and be persistent." Kyle also stated he learned some useful tactics from the enhanced interview skills course he attended in the fall of 2014, which was being offered through the Justice Institute of British Columbia at that time.

Canada – Accused drug mule in court

A Calgary woman accused of swallowing nearly a kilogram of cocaine to smuggle into Canada made her first court appearance May 5.

Canadian Border Service Agency officials at the Edmonton International Airport intercepted the passenger on April 30 on suspicion of ingesting drugs while returning from the Caribbean. The passenger was transported to hospital for immediate medical attention, and 82 pellets of cocaine - weighing in at 978.6 grams - were turned over to the RCMP.



“Upon confirmation that the traveller had ingested drugs, CBSA officers arranged for transportation to hospital for immediate medical attention as the traveller’s health and safety was compromised by this type of concealment,” the CBSA said in a news release.

Colleen Ellingson, 45, of Calgary has been charged with the import of narcotics and possession for the purpose of trafficking. (*Calgary Sun*)

Canada – RCMP & CBSA work together in order to arrest an individual involved in the importation of US counterfeit currency

The RCMP’s Greater Toronto Area Financial Crime Integrated Counterfeit Enforcement team (GTA FC ICET) has arrested and charged a male after he was found to have in his custody in excess of \$130,000 of US counterfeit one-hundred dollar bills.

On May 5, a male traveller was intercepted by the Canada Border Services Agency at the Toronto Pearson International Airport. Border services officers, acting on a referral from the CBSA National Targeting Centre, identified the traveller returning from Ghana and referred him for secondary examination. The officers subsequently discovered the US counterfeit notes concealed within the inner lining of three handbags.

The RCMP were immediately contacted and investigators from GTA FC ICET attended the Toronto Pearson International Airport and arrested Christian-John DHJARNGB0 (age 36) of Ottawa. DHJARNGB0 was charged with unlawful introduction of counterfeit money into Canada and unlawful custody of counterfeit money contrary to the Criminal Code.

Canada – Canine crews sniff out drugs at the border

Sometimes man’s best friend can sniff out trouble that man himself cannot.

That's the job of the four-legged inspectors that work with the Canada Border Services Agency's detector dog program. Through their dogged efforts, the canines sniff out prohibited drugs, food, firearms, currency, plants and animals being brought into Canada.

At the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls, the detector dogs are paired into teams with their animal handlers. "I've been a dog handler since December 2011. The whole time, I've been partnered up with the same partner," said Paul Parkinson, whose detector dog Sawyer is a Chesapeake Bay Retriever that specializes in narcotics and firearms detection.

"She's a government dog, she's an agency dog that is my work partner and lives with me full-time as well," Parkinson said. "They live with handlers to increase the bond, and at work we find that they perform better."



The backseat of Parkinson's work vehicle was removed to make way for a personal kennel for Sawyer. At home, Parkinson said, he has a four-foot by 10-foot kennel where Sawyer lives full-time. If it's cold, he'll bring her inside the house but most of the time Sawyer is outside.

Like a lot of businesses, even contraband detection at the Canadian border seems to go in cycles. "When it rains, it pours," Parkinson said. "You can get a result in search back to back; other times, you go (searching) in (vehicles) for a few weeks and there's nothing. If there's nothing, it doesn't matter. It's all impacted by who and what is traveling."

The border agency uses passive dogs — different from the aggressive ones often portrayed doing similar work on TV reality shows. The CBSA generally employs Labrador retrievers to detect drugs, guns and currency, and beagles to search for food, plant and animal products.

"On TV a lot of the times, you see the police dogs who bark and scratch and claw in places where they find the drugs. And those are called 'active' dogs, which our agency started phasing out in the early 90s," Parkinson said. "We use passive dogs. They just stay and sit down at the source of the odour and they'll pinpoint with their nose. It's less intrusive (and) it's not going to hurt people."

Active dogs also pose a risk to people who are being inspected, and to the evidence that is collected. Having an evidence bag damaged or destroyed by a dog can also destroy the case against someone found to be smuggling contraband into Canada.

"A lot of times when she sits beside someone, they might just think 'Oh, your dog really likes me.' But we're really going to pull them aside, because likely they have drugs on them," said Parkinson.



On their days off, he makes sure Sawyer gets some rest. "They're her days off, just like mine. We were taught that right out of the get-go from college. She basically just lies around and I exercise her, but I cut the stimulation out on her days off because that's her time to relax. I don't want to be playing around with her at home too much."

The CBSA college where the detector dog teams train is in Rigaud, Que. "They usually take experienced handlers," Parkinson says, who has been on the job for 10 years. "They'll run a process and they'll send a few people up to the college for a two-day assessment and see if you're worth to be sent to do the full, 10-week program."

"When you take that course, you're paired up with quite a few dogs, probably two, three or four. They want to see which dog you work best with, and throughout the college they introduce you (and the dog) to large

odours to get the 'game' down pat and you'll eventually progress to live ports of entry. "Most of them are just outside of Montreal, the airport in Montreal and Ottawa and a lot of jails in Kingston. The bulk of the training is when you actually search vehicles." Much of the training is similar for both dog and handler.

"The agency tends to try and get any dog they can get their hands on," Parkinson said. "There isn't a specific breed that they want, but we stay away from the aggressive breeds, like the (German) shepherds. We want a dog with a nice level of temperament, but you could probably train any dog to find anything, be it peanut butter or drugs. "The trick is to find a dog who will search for a lifetime instead of a week."

Each dog has its own personality, of course. Some days, said Parkinson, Sawyer just doesn't feel like searching. "I have to motivate her somehow, and I use the training hides to do that. So it's still tough to find a dog that wants to work day in and day out," he said "Only 10 per cent of the dogs make it out of the program and get paired up with someone."

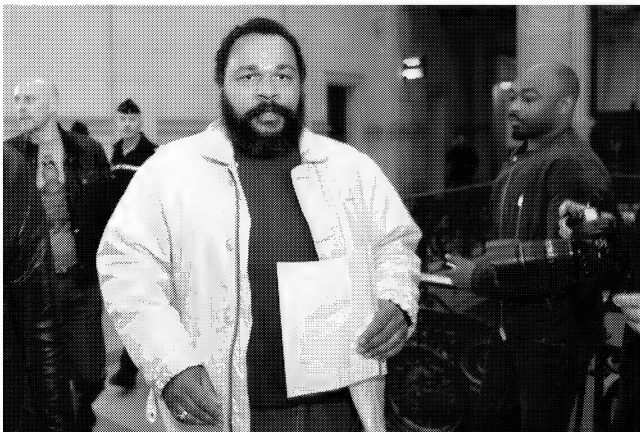
Typically, dogs start their training before they turn one year old, and they can work for eight or even 10 years. In their retirement years, they can continue living with their handler or be placed in a home arranged by the handler. If they are still able to work, it is the handler's choice to get them paired up with a different animal handler.

CBSA generally employs Labrador retrievers to detect drugs, guns and currency and beagles to detect food, plant and animal products. (*Niagara Falls Review*)

Canada – Customs kicks French anti-Semitic comic immediately out of Canada

An anti-Semitic French comedian was booted from Canada – just hours after being convicted in his country for breaking hate-speech laws.

Dieudonné M'bala M'bala landed May 10 in Montreal, where he was scheduled to perform at 10 sold-out shows. But authorities in the airport customs area saw nothing funny in his shtick, and turned him away.



The caustic comic, known simply as Dieudonné, 50, was fined \$11,400 in France for his latest offense and also given a suspended two-month prison sentence for using anti-Semitic language on stage. His hateful routines and violations of hate-speech laws have prompted Jewish groups, Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre, and many other Canadian politicians to say he is not welcome.

"It would seem that the [Canadian Border Services Agency] made the right decision today," said David Ouellette of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs. "Through his incitement to violence, glorification of terrorism, and anti-Semitic vitriol, he was clearly not admissible to Canada."

Dieudonné also has been barred in Great Britain and Hong Kong. (*New York Post*)

Canada – The Canada Border Services Agency keeping the border secure

It's Canada's first line of defense. The Canada Border Services Agency operates day and night at the Coutts port of entry, the only 24/7 commercial crossing between Montana and Alberta.



Nat Collins, a nine-year CBSA officer, said, "We're primarily here to process the people and the goods that are entering Canada and interdict contraband that are not allowed in Canada." Back in 2015, the CBSA in southern Alberta processed over 1.1 million travelers. That's 464,000 cars and 129,000 commercial trucks.

Collins said amongst the sea of travelers who cross from Montana to Alberta, there are those who seem to forget about Canada's gun laws. "The most common thing especially this time of year would be firearms that are not declared to the officers," Collins said.



Canada's strict gun laws certainly aren't preventing Americans from attempting to smuggle firearms across the border. In 2015, the CBSA confiscated 51 firearms at the various Alberta border crossings. Officers seized 39 of the 51 firearms at the Coutts port of entry, which is the most seized at any crossing in western Canada.

"We've had specific seizures where you get 75 or more guns in one instance. We'll have days where it's just one after another after another," Collins noted.

To declare or not to declare, that is the question. Not declaring firearms could mean thousands of dollars in fines and potential criminal charges. Collins advises U.S. travelers to always declare. Certain guns may even be admissible into Canada. "Hopefully with some public education, people will realize that the firearms and weapons need to be declared and then they won't have such a hard time if they do declare them," Collins said.



MTN NEWS PHOTO

Last year, CBSA officers conducted over 60 drug seizures throughout the various Alberta border crossings. When there are drugs, that's where detector dog Comet and handler Kyle Reindl come into play. For Comet, the definition of play translates quite literally. "If there's a huge exam that's going to take hours and hours, four officers could do it in four hours. Comet will do it in ten minutes," Reindl said.

Comet's been sniffing out drugs and guns since December. Just two months in, she found 30 pounds of crystal meth. Reindl awards Comet with a Kong Ball.

"I got the best job in the world. I get to come to work every day with Comet and it's just her job to play the game and the older she gets, the more training we do, enhances her skills and trains her nose and her memory to be able to really hunt that odor of drugs and guns and yeah it's just an amazing feeling," Reindl said.

With summer on the horizon, Nat, Kyle and Comet, alongside the entire CBSA team at Coutts, remain secure and ready for the influx of travelers coming in from Sweet Grass Montana; admitting the good guys, keeping out the bad around the clock. (KPAX)

Canada – Fines galore for undeclared handguns

Prairie Region BSOs have already seized 23 undeclared guns this year, placing them only behind Pacific Region (58) and Southern Ontario Region (45). Of the Prairie Region seizures, almost all of the firearms seized were handguns. In fact, only three were not. Local Criminal Investigations units are beginning to see significant sentencing as a result of charges from this year – and from the previous one.

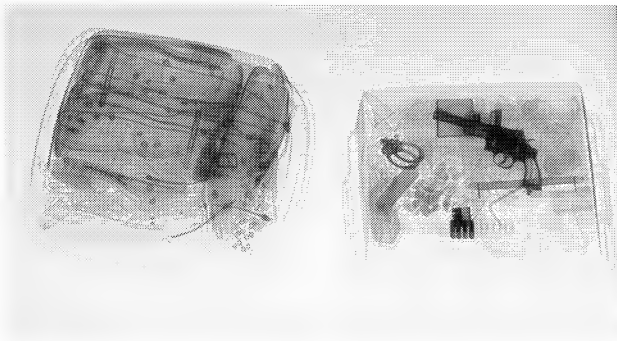
On May 11, _____ pleaded guilty to failing to report goods under the *Customs Act* and careless transportation of a firearm under the *Criminal Code*, and was sentenced to a fine of \$5,400. On July 9, 2015, at Estevan Highway, BSOs Lori Wurtz and Jeremy Groenveld searched his pickup truck and trailer and found a loaded handgun on a closet shelf along with two overcapacity magazines.

Most recently on May 18, _____ pleaded guilty to smuggling a 9mm handgun and four overcapacity magazines under the *Customs Act* and was sentenced to an \$8,000 fine and 10-year weapons prohibition. On July 25, 2015, he arrived at the Coutts border crossing and declared one shotgun, but BSOs Michel Leroux, Brayden Moore, and Adrian Devlin found the loaded handgun under the rear seat of the vehicle and the magazines inside a utility trailer he was hauling.



On May 4, [redacted] pleaded guilty to smuggling a 9mm handgun and .44-calibre revolver under the *Customs Act* and was sentenced to a \$10,000 fine and 10-year weapons prohibition. On February 24, 2016, at Coutts, he declared four rifles and four shotguns, but using an X-ray machine, BSOs Bill McMillan, Randal Brittner, and Chris Brodie found the undeclared firearms in boxes in a trailer.

Criminal Investigator Scott Maccumber, who works at the Coutts POE, says these penalties are in line with those seen throughout the province. "The standard fine for a gun they are asking for in Alberta – with no mitigating or aggravated factors – is \$5,000," he says. "If there are aggravating factors, it goes up. If there are mitigating factors, it goes down."



He says he is glad to see these cases come to a conclusion by having the accused or their representatives appearing in court to deal with the charges, rather than failing to show and being issued an arrest warrant. Scott says two more subjects in southern Alberta firearms seizures are scheduled to appear in court on June 22.

Canada – Loaded pistol seized at border

A New York man failed to declare a loaded pistol at the Lansdowne border crossing, resulting in the CBSA laying charges. New York, sought entry to Canada on May 22 and was sent for a secondary examination.



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During a search of the vehicle, border services officers found a loaded .45-calibre pistol under the driver's seat and two additional loaded .45-calibre magazines in the vehicle. The gun and the magazines were seized and [redacted] was arrested.

On May 23, CBSA investigators charged [redacted] with making false statements and smuggling under paragraph 153(a) and section 159 of the *Customs Act* and unauthorized possession of a restricted weapon and possession of a loaded restricted weapon under section 94 and subsection 95(1) of the *Criminal Code*.

[redacted] was released on \$10,000 bail and his court appearance will be on June 10 in Brockville.

Canada – Windsor dad busted for smuggling cocaine in vehicle's engine compartment

The Canada Border Services Agency arrested a Windsor man after he attempted to smuggle eight kilograms of cocaine into Canada at the Ambassador Bridge.

On May 22, a vehicle containing two Windsor residents, a male driver and his son, was referred for a secondary examination. Officers say they declared themselves as being absent for the day, visiting family in Michigan. During the secondary examination, CBSA says seven bricks of cocaine, with an approximate weight of eight kilograms, were discovered in the engine compartment of the vehicle.



"This brings the total seizure of cocaine over the past year to over 136 kilograms. I am very proud of the great work by our officers." Said Rick Comerford, regional director general for southern Ontario region of CBSA.

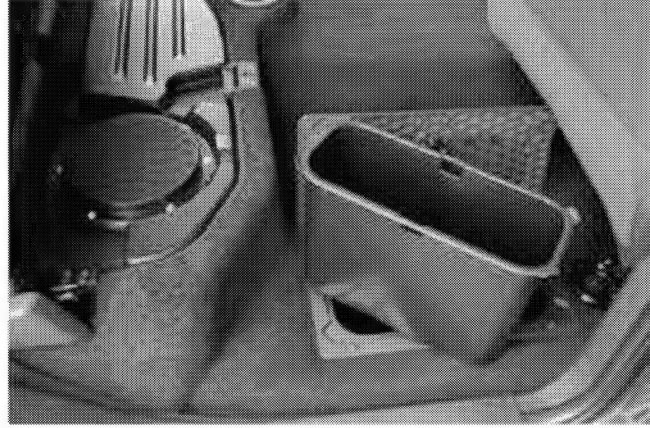
The driver was arrested. [redacted] is charged with importation of cocaine and possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine. Huttun and the cocaine were turned over to the RCMP.

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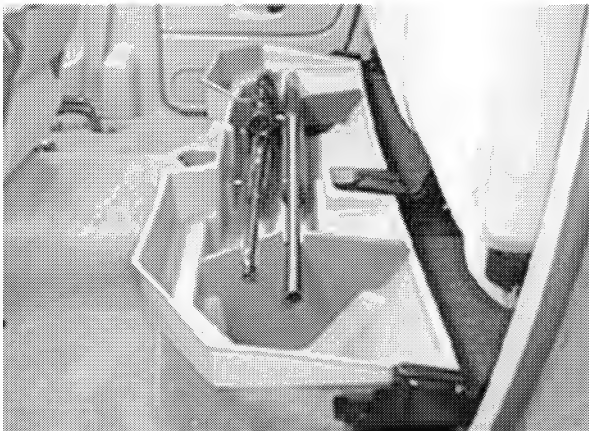
Canada – North Portal targets Ram pickups during enforcement project

Officers at North Portal recently finished a weeklong targeting project on Ram pickup trucks, which resulted in 29 vehicles searched. Officer Trainee Jason Hunter led *Operation Black Thunder*, and says that before it began, officers tracked the make and model of vehicles crossing through North Portal for two days. The Ram 1500 was one of the most common.



"Through online research and talking to a couple of people who own Rams, I found out they offer more stock compartments than any other vehicle," says Jason. "We put together a guide of what [types of] compartments exist in newer vehicles."

BSOs at the Sprague POE completed a similar project on Ford F-150 trucks last year. In this case, North Portal officers were asked to refer all Ram trucks and code them for the Operation Black Thunder project. On May 22, BSO Dean Zalisko examined a 2011 Ram 2500 bound for Alaska and found a prohibited switchblade in the glove box. The project also led to two forced payments and an Alcohol Screening Device test, which was non-resultant.



In Ram trucks specifically, there are areas of potential concealment underneath the front seat and in in-floor compartments in the rear cab. "Everyone does their specific search, but you can miss factory mods," says Jason. "You can search two vehicle of the same model, but that doesn't mean they'll necessarily be the same."

Canada – Emerson CBSA officials to receive training to help protect children

May 25 is International Missing Children's Day. To mark the occasion, the Canada Border Services Agency announced it would be working on a pilot project in Manitoba with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection to better train border officials for identifying situations involving missing, sexually abused and exploited children.

The specific focus of the pilot project will be for the two agencies to work together to better identify these types cases at the border.



Jeryn Peters is the Chief of Operations for CBSA in Emerson. She explained how the partnership came about.

"There is a strong interest in Manitoba right now because of the proximity, their [the Canadian Centre] headquarters are in Winnipeg so it's easy for us to work together in close proximity," she said. "Our interest lies in the protection of children as does theirs. With the increased traffic in the summer, we're likely to see more families more kids travelling through, so it's a great time to start it up."

The CBSA and the Canadian Centre are also

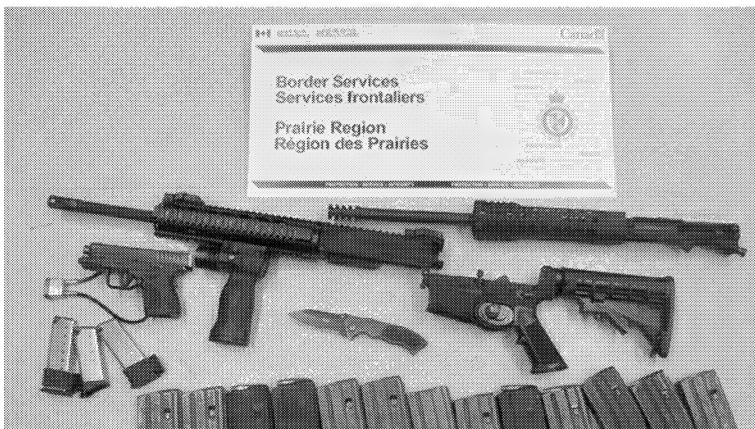
partnering to better educate the public on missing children and travelling safely with children abroad.

Canadian Centre Case Worker Jessica Huzyk said the pilot project will be a big benefit to both agencies. "At the Centre we're always trying to stay ahead of the game rather than following trends and so as we receive new information, because we've built such a great relationship with CBSA officers and staff, we are always making sure that they're notified immediately. They also have a ton of wealth of knowledge also that we are really going to be tapping into."

Canada – AM-15 assault rifle among eight guns seized in SASSD

BSOs at North Portal seized an AM-15 assault rifle in May, which has already resulted in a criminal conviction. On May 26, an Oklahoma man moving to Alaska was referred from primary after declaring four long guns. Officers searched his pickup truck and found three handgun cases, creating the question – where was the handgun?

"BSO [Ken] Macnab was asking the subject questions and at the same time, BSO [Sherese] Tardif-Cress was looking through his tan backpack," says assisting Officer Trainee Jacqueline Woo. "At the same time she found the pistol, he admitted, 'If I were to have a pistol, it would be [in the backpack].'"



The officers secured the .45-calibre restricted handgun and arrested the subject, then began to examine the trailer he was hauling. Inside they found a prohibited switchblade, 13 overcapacity 30-round magazines, and the dismantled prohibited AM-15 assault rifle.

"The assault rifle was in vacuum-sealed bags, disassembled in the trailer, and hidden in clothing," says Sherese.

After finding the receiver and two barrels, officers issued a \$3,000 vehicle penalty and Criminal Investigations remanded the traveller into custody and promptly laid charges the

following day. On May 30, he appeared in Regina Provincial Court and pleaded guilty to two counts of smuggling under the *Customs Act*. He was sentenced to another \$3,000 in fines and transferred to Inland Enforcement custody for removal from Canada.

There were eight more guns intercepted in Southern Alberta and Southern Saskatchewan District (SASSD) in May:



On May 1 at North Portal, BSOs Jacqueline Woo and Jeff Street seized a prohibited .45-calibre revolver from the cab of a commercial vehicle, under a duffle bag on the top sleeping bunk. They arrested the driver, a Georgia man, who paid a \$1,000 penalty before being allowed to continue into Canada – without the gun – to deliver his load.



On May 2 at Coutts, BSOs Matthew Patching and Cheyenne McGlenn seized a loaded .44-calibre restricted revolver from a Texas man bound for Alaska. The gun was inside a trailer in a tote, concealed inside a pair of fishing waders. Criminal Investigations has since charged the man on two counts under the *Customs Act* and two counts under the *Criminal Code*, and he is scheduled to appear in Lethbridge Provincial Court on June 22.



On May 7 at Coutts, BSOs Donald Leier and Michel Leroux uncovered a .45-calibre pistol in an Arizona man's SUV. The gun was behind the driver's seat in a silver briefcase, which also contained non-reported United States currency valued at more than \$23,000. The man paid a \$1,000 penalty for failing to declare the handgun, which was seized with no terms of release, and paid a \$250 penalty for the return of the undeclared currency. He was also issued an Allowed to Leave for committing an offence upon entry.

- On May 13 at Coutts, BSOs Trevor Slavens and Catherine Aivaliotis arrested a 70-year-old U.S. resident after finding an undeclared 9mm handgun in his motorhome. Once they determined the traveller had no smuggling intentions, they declined to take seizure action and allowed him to return to the United States.
- On May 14 at North Portal, BSOs Ken Macnab and Lorna Rushfeldt seized a dismantled non-restricted 20-gauge shotgun from a Tennessee man bound for Alaska.
- On May 27 at North Portal, BSOs Matthew Primeau and Kevin Roche seized the receiver of an AM-15 from a Kentucky man moving to Alaska. He declared 23 long guns in his van, but failed to mention the receiver along with two overcapacity magazines, and paid a \$1,500 vehicle penalty before continuing into Canada.

- On May 28 at North Portal, BSOs Kevin Roche and Lorna Rushfeldt seized a non-restricted .22-calibre rifle from a Nebraska man bound for Alaska.

Canada – Perv busted at border

A Winnipeg man arrested after he was caught engaging in an online sexual relationship with a 15-year-old Las Vegas girl has been sentenced to two years in prison. David Pearson, 34, previously pleaded guilty to Internet luring.

"With increased use of the Internet in today's society, it must be made clear that the use of the Internet for criminal conduct of the nature committed by this accused will be treated severely," said Justice Doug Abra.

Court heard Pearson was arrested Aug. 20, 2011, while re-entering Canada at the Emerson border crossing. During an examination of his cell phone, border officers found nude pictures of the teen victim. Further investigation revealed Pearson had been communicating with the girl online while posing as a 16-year-old boy.

"During the Internet relationship, the accused persuaded the 15-year-old to take numerous sexual photographs of herself," Abra said. At the time of his arrest, Pearson and the girl had not met in person. "It's clear from (text messages) and the child's victim impact statement that the child was very emotionally tied to the accused and that she was prepared to do almost anything he asked," Abra said.

Pearson was sentenced to an additional three years supervised probation during which time he is to have no contact with children 16 years of age or younger. (*Winnipeg Sun*)

Canada – American arrested at Sask. border while en route to policing job

A 24-year-old American citizen looking to launch a policing career in Alaska found himself on the wrong side of Canadian law when he was arrested at the Saskatchewan border for attempting to smuggle in guns and other prohibited items.

Justin Dallas Ross was leaving Oklahoma behind, making his way to Anchorage, Alaska where he had a job lined up with the local police department. Unfortunately, his trip proved shorter than anticipated when officers with the Canada Border Services Agency located a number of undeclared weapons and devices.

Ross appeared at Regina Provincial Court on May 30 where he initially faced six counts under the Canada *Customs Act*. He ended up pleading guilty to two counts related to attempted smuggling.

Federal Crown agent Mariel Wellsch told the court Ross was trying to pass through the North Portal border crossing on May 26, declaring four long guns in his possession. It was when he was sent for a secondary inspection that officers found an unloaded .45-calibre handgun, a disassembled AR-15 rifle, a switchblade and 13 prohibited firearm magazines — six of which were loaded.

Judge Clifford Toth pointed out to Ross that Canadian law differs from that in the United States when it comes to allowing these types of weapons to be owned or possessed by civilians. "Somehow, our homicide rate is lower," a tongue-in-cheek Toth said with a smile. "I don't know why."

Toth agreed to impose the sentence jointly requested by Crown and defence counsel, handing down fines in the amount of \$3,000.

Ross was expected to be returned in the custody of the CBSA to the Canada-U.S border following his release from court custody. (*Regina Leader-Post*)

China – The moment an angry student throws contact lens solution at customs police after being told she couldn't take it through airport security

A graduate student in China has been arrested by customs police after she doused an official with a cup of contact lens solution. She reportedly got angry when she was told that the bottle of liquid exceeded the regulated legal amount allowed on flights, which made her lash out at the authorities.

Surveillance cameras from Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport captured the moment at the security checkpoint where the student from Beijing, identified only by her surname, Li, was prevented from going through.



Li, 28, was carrying a large bottle of contact lens solution, which she was told could only be brought aboard her flight if the container did not exceed 100 millilitres (3.4 ounces). Unable to find a suitable container, Li is said to have poured the contents of the bottle into a paper cup - but she was told that the cup would not do as it did not have a cover with which to seal it. Angered and agitated, the student then threw the cup of liquid at a security officer.

Li was detained by customs authorities and prevented from boarding the flight back to her hometown in the capital for violating civil aviation laws.

Reports said Li had been in Hangzhou, capital of East China's Zhejiang Province, for an interview with an e-commerce company. It is unclear how long she was detained and if she will be prosecuted. (*Daily Mail*)

China – Woman held for attacking Futian customs officer with stun gun

Shenzhen authorities have arrested a mainland woman after she attacked a customs officer at Futian port with a stun gun. The attack took place May 22 following a quarrel over long waiting times at a customs clearance facility.



At about 8 pm, when the Futian port was packed with people waiting to cross the border and enter Shenzhen, officers were on alert against the so-called parallel goods traders who buy up goods in bulk in Hong Kong and resell them for profit in the mainland. There were tighter checks on baggage, leading to delays in the customs clearance process.

As each piece of luggage was put through X-ray machine, the waiting time to clear the customs stretched for long as three hours, leading to flared tempers among the passengers. Amid this situation, a woman — suspected to be a parallel goods trader — was caught on camera getting into a quarrel with a customs officer.

In a video clip, several officers could be seen subduing the woman as a colleague lay on the ground. Mainland media cited a witness as saying that the woman tasered the officer, rendering him unconscious. The victim regained

consciousness later in hospital but doctors said they would need more tests to determine if the officer suffered any concussion.

Under Chinese law, a person charged with assaulting a police officer could face up to three years in prison. Those found with a stun gun could also be jailed for as long as three years.

Cyprus – Three remanded after cocaine luggage find

Three students were remanded for eight days on May 9 after they arrived in Cyprus with 12 kilos of cocaine on a flight from Dubai to Larnaca airport. The Nigerian nationals aged 24, 26 and 28 arrived on May 8.

The 26-year-old had a plastic bag stitched into his shirt carrying 3.5 kilos of cocaine, Drug Squad representative Stelios Sergides said while the eldest had a carry on plastic bag containing three boxes of chocolate. Inside, there were egg shaped items that held a total of 4.4 kilos of the drug.

The 24-year-old used the same scheme to bring in the remaining load into Cyprus. The three were arrested on the spot and are being investigated for illegal possession and intent to supply 12.3 kilos of a Class A drug.

Dubai, UAE – Tourist tried to smuggle forged passports into UAE, court hears

A Nigerian tourist attempted to smuggle eight forged passports into the country hidden inside books.

Prosecutors said that on January 29, the 26-year-old had arrived at Dubai International Airport when an Emirati customs inspector noticed his bag was suspiciously thick. "I saw a number of books in the bag and they looked suspicious," said the inspector, adding that when he opened two books he found passports from Nigeria, Ghana, and Guinea hidden inside. "The first book had five passports in it while the second had three," said the inspector.

Officers from Dubai Police's General Department of Forensic Science and Criminology said the data pages in the passports had been removed and new ones added. Entry stamps were also found to be forged.

The defendant denied a forgery charge in the Dubai Criminal Court in April. However, he was convicted and sentenced to six months in jail to be followed by deportation. (*The National*)

Dubai, UAE – UAE to deport 30 Ethiopian women who arrived at airport without return tickets

Thirty Ethiopian women, who arrived in Dubai on May 3, are scheduled to be deported back to Addis Ababa after immigration officials denied them entry because they did not have return tickets.

The group of women arrived at Dubai's International Airport with valid visas to enter the United Arab Emirates. However, they did not book their return tickets and could not provide proof that they will continue their journey. UAE immigration laws require visitors to prove that they will leave the Gulf nation before the expiration of their visas.

The 30 Ethiopian women arrived in Dubai via a Flydubai flight from Addis Ababa. They will reportedly be deported on a flight with the airliner to the same Ethiopian city.

Dubai, UAE – Hashish smuggler jailed for 10 years by Dubai court

A 29-year-old has been sentenced to 10 years in jail for carrying trying to smuggle more than four kilograms of hashish into the country. The Iranian was caught at Dubai International Airport on February 26 this year. At the Dubai Criminal Court in April, he denied a charge of smuggling 4.92kg of hashish.

An Emirati customs inspector became suspicious of the man's bag and stopped him for an inspection. "I had him empty the bag," said the inspector, adding it was still heavy so she broke the bottom and found the drugs in plastic bags. The Iranian denied knowing anything about the drugs and said he was given the bag by a friend to deliver to a man in the UAE.

He was also fined Dh50,000 and will be deported after serving his term. (*The National*)

Dubai, UAE – Producer jailed for smuggling cocaine in candies

An advertisement producer has been jailed for four years for smuggling 93g of cocaine in the form of candy inside his luggage. A Customs inspector stopped the 35-year-old Polish producer, M.M., at the arrivals terminal of Dubai International Airport after 30 green pieces of candy were discovered in his luggage in March. The Dubai Court of First Instance convicted M.M. of smuggling and possessing drugs for his personal use.

In court, the accused admitted that he possessed the candy but contended that he was not aware that it contained cocaine. "I brought the seized substances with me but I was not aware that they had cocaine. I got them with me for my personal use," said M.M.

Presiding judge Fahd Al Shamsi said the drugs will be confiscated and the accused will be deported serving the jail sentence.

When asked since when he had been using cocaine, the defendant replied: "I used to take cocaine more than a year ago ... but not anymore. I bought this candy in my country and eat it. It is a sweet and I did not know that it contained cocaine. I really did not know that it was cocaine ... I thought it was candy. This candy contains coca flower and it is not a drug."

The Customs inspector said they searched the defendant's luggage after they suspected that he might be carrying something banned. "He arrived at the counter around midnight. When we searched his luggage, I found 30 pieces of green candy in the bottom of the bag. We examined the candy and discovered that it contained cocaine. We referred the defendant to Dubai Police's anti-narcotics department for further interrogations," testified the inspector. The accused asked the court for leniency. (*Gulf News*)

Dubai, UAE – Teen boy sneaks onto airplane to Dubai to become beggar

A 16-year-old Chinese boy has been caught sneaking into Dubai by hiding in a plane's cargo compartment, with



plans to make a fortune there as a beggar.

Under the cloak of darkness, the boy climbed into the cargo compartment of an Emirates Airlines plane in Shanghai on May 26. He was later detained at Dubai's airport. He said he heard news reports of beggars earning about 470,000 yuan (\$71,4000) a month in the city and wanted to try his luck.

The teenager said he knew smuggling was illegal but believed he would face no serious consequences as he is a juvenile. He also told local police the environment in the cargo compartment was ok, despite having had no food or water during the journey. The teenager was expected to be deported and banned from entering Dubai again.

Ma Xuliang, China's deputy general consul in Dubai, said the case was still under investigation and he believed the local law to be objective and civilized. Ma also said previous media reports about high incomes in Dubai were a rumor and the emirate banned begging of any kind.

Finland – Finnair steward convicted of people smuggling

Vantaa District Court has sentenced a Finnair flight attendant for human trafficking undertaken over a three year period between 2013 and 2016. The Chinese man was given an 18 month suspended prison sentence for helping some 30 Chinese citizens bypass Schengen area border controls at Helsinki airport.

He will also have to pay the state some 30,000 euros he received as proceeds of the crime of arranging the illegal immigration. There were 17 attempts to convey people through the controls, and 15 of those succeeded, meaning some 30 people were trafficked. The two failed attempts did not work out because China prevented the people from leaving the country.

The man was employed via a subcontractor, and he was detained at Helsinki airport in February. He had admitted what he'd done, but said he had not been operating as part of an organised criminal gang. (*Yle*)

France – Paris airports have tightened security since November attacks

French authorities have tightened security at Paris airports since last year's attacks in the capital, with thousands of border police officers, customs personnel, soldiers and private guards patrolling daily in the three airports serving the capital.



In addition to thousands of police, army and customs members, some 5,000 security guards working for private contractors are assigned to the Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle, Orly and Le Bourget airports.

These forces are responsible for ensuring security both in the airports' public areas and in reserved areas, such as boarding gates, baggage sorting sections, and tarmac areas where only passengers with boarding passes and airport staff with special red badges are allowed.

In the terminals, the number of patrols has increased in public areas, video surveillance has been strengthened with 9,000 CCTV cameras overall, bags and coats have been subject to random checks at the entrances, police dog teams who can detect explosives are patrolling, and "profiling" agents trained to detect "unusual behaviours" have been recruited.

Overall, 86,000 airport staff - baggage handlers, duty free shop employees, maintenance workers, restaurant staff, firefighters, rescue workers and air traffic controllers - are carrying "red badges" that provide access to restricted areas of the airports. These badges are given for three years by local authorities, not by the airports, after several police investigations.

Last December, after the deadly November attacks in Paris, head of the Paris Aeroport authority Augustin de Romanet said that nearly 70 red badges had been withdrawn "for the phenomenon of radicalisation" and 4,000 lockers of personnel were searched. (*Irish Independent*)

Germany – Germany to extend passport controls until EU border checks effective

Germany will extend passport controls until effective checks on the European Union's external borders are in place, Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière said on May 10, amid fears a new wave of migrants might be heading north via Italy and Austria.



"We are working on an effective control of the EU's external borders. But we aren't there yet," Mr. de Maizière said. "We therefore need to continue with national border controls, in line with European law."

The move shows anxiety over migration remains high in Germany, which received around 1 million asylum seekers last year, even though the arrivals have dropped this year after some countries along the migrants' route moved to stem the flow.

Several members of Europe's Schengen document-free travel area reintroduced some

form of document controls at their borders in the wake of last year's inflow, putting a key feature of Europe's integration in recent decades under strain.

In April, Berlin had considered lifting its controls as the migrant flow slowed. But the European Commission last week recommended a six-month extension of the checks, which Austria, Denmark, Sweden and Norway have also put in place in reaction to the migration crisis.

The commission said such controls were justified as long as Greece hadn't properly secured its border. The bulk of last year's arrivals entered the EU via the so-called West Balkans route through Turkey and Greece. A deal struck in March between the EU and Turkey has led to a steep reduction of those numbers, but political uncertainty in Ankara is raising concerns in Brussels on whether that deal will hold over the summer.

The government has become increasingly concerned that migrants might opt for a transit through Italy and Austria as an alternative to the West Balkans route. (*The Wall Street Journal*)

Guyana – \$140,000 fine for smuggling birds

Two persons were fined \$140,000 each for trying to smuggle birds out of the country. Danwattie Persaud, 57, of Georgetown and Kayum Mohammed, 52, of Lot 12 Enterprise, Leguan, both pleaded guilty to the charge of exporting birds without permission when it was read to them at the Georgetown Magistrates' Courts.

For Persaud on April 27, at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport, she attempted, without permission, to export Chestnut-bellied seed finches, commonly known as 'Towa Towa' birds out of Guyana to the United States of America. Mohammed tried to do the same thing on April 28. He was heading to **Canada** with the birds.

According to Police Prosecutor Neville Jeffers, the individuals who attempted to smuggle the birds, had stuck the creatures into plastic tubes that are similar to large hair curlers. The two were caught by officers at the screening point in the Airport, when their handbags were checked.

In the case of Persaud, she told the officers that the birds were given to her for her to take to New York, while Mohammed said that he was taking them to Toronto for himself.

Chief Magistrate Ann McLennan fined them for the illegal exportation of the birds. (*Stabroek News*)

Guyana – Cocaine in milk bust at airport

A Georgetown construction worker was busted May 19 at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Timehri with over 10 lbs of cocaine he attempted to smuggle as milk to the United States.

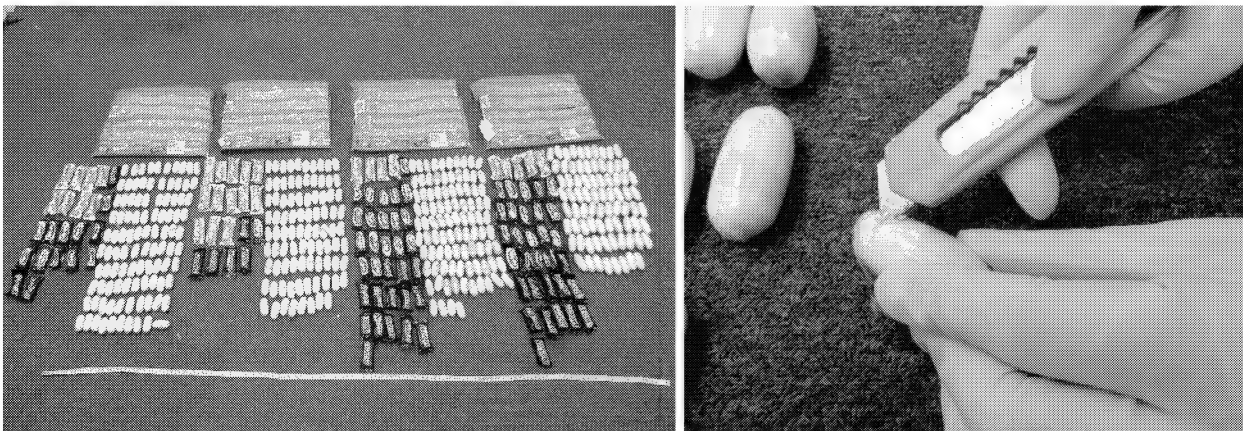
Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit (CANU) agents found the 5 kilogrammes of cocaine in milk powder packets, stashed in the man's suitcase. Head of the counter narcotics agency James Singh confirmed the bust.

The Georgetown resident was booked to travel on a Caribbean Airlines flight to John F Kennedy Airport to New York May 19 when his luggage was searched and the illicit drug discovered. He has since been detained as investigations continue. (*Stabroek News*)

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs detects a drug trafficking case at airport

Hong Kong Customs detected a drug trafficking case at Hong Kong International Airport May 13 and arrested three men. About 6.3 kilograms of cocaine, with a total value of about \$6.8 million, were seized.

Customs officers intercepted a man who arrived from Dubai at the arrival hall of Hong Kong International Airport May 13. During customs clearance, Customs officers found four candy packets in his hand-carry rucksack. In-depth examination led to the discovery of a total of 360 pellets of cocaine inside the candy packets with a total weight of about 6.3 kilograms. The dangerous drugs were mingled with genuine candies. Subsequent follow-up investigation resulted in the apprehension of another two men on the same day.



The three arrested persons aged from 32 to 39. Two of them who claimed to be businessmen will be jointly charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. They will appear at Tsuen Wan Magistrates' Courts May 16. The third man will be put on police bail pending further investigation.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes dried seahorses at airport



Hong Kong Customs seized about 14 kilogrammes of dried seahorses and arrested one male incoming passenger at Hong Kong International Airport May 14.

Customs officers conducted Customs clearance on one male passenger at the airport May 14. The male passenger arrived Hong Kong from Cairo, Egypt via Bangkok, Thailand. During the clearance, Customs officers found about 14 kg of dried seahorses from the male passenger's checked-in baggage.

The case was handed over to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for follow-up investigation.

Hong Kong – HK Customs seizes cocaine at airport



Hong Kong Customs seized about 3.5 kilograms of cocaine, with a market value of about \$3.7 million and arrested a male passenger at Hong Kong International Airport May 15.

The arrested man arrived at Hong Kong from Dubai May 15. During customs clearance, Customs officers found a plastic ice bucket inside a piece of his hand-carry baggage. X-ray check revealed suspicious images inside the ice bucket. In-depth examination led to the discovery of 3.5 kilograms of cocaine concealed inside the insulating layer of the ice bucket.

The arrested man, aged 77 and claimed to be a retiree, will be charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes rhino horns at airport

Hong Kong Customs seized five pieces of rhino horn, weighing about 10 kilograms in total and with an estimated value of about \$2 million, in an express air parcel at Hong Kong International Airport on May 14.

During cargo examination, Customs officers screened an inbound consignment declared as “resin crafts” originating from South Africa. Suspicious images of the cargo were found under X-ray inspection. After opening the consignment, Customs officers found the rhino horns.



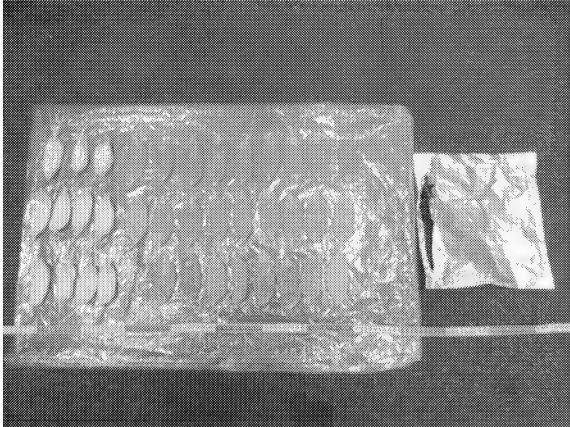
Upon follow-up investigation, a 61-year-old man was arrested May 16. He has been released on bail pending further investigation.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes cocaine at airport

Hong Kong Customs detected two drug trafficking cases at Hong Kong International Airport May 19 and arrested one incoming female passenger and one transit male passenger. A total of about 3.6 kilogrammes of cocaine with a market value of about \$3.8 million were seized.

The arrested woman arrived at Hong Kong from Lima, Peru via Sao Paulo, Brazil and Dubai May 19. During Customs clearance, X-ray checks on a piece of her check-in suitcase revealed suspicious image. In-depth examination led to discovery of about 1.4 kilogrammes of cocaine concealed inside the false compartment of the suitcase.

The arrested man arrived at Hong Kong from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil via Dubai and was in transit to Macau May 19. During patrolling at transit lounge, Customs officers intercepted this man for examination. As a result of examination, about 2.2 kilogrammes of cocaine were found concealed inside the false compartment of a computer bag carried by him.

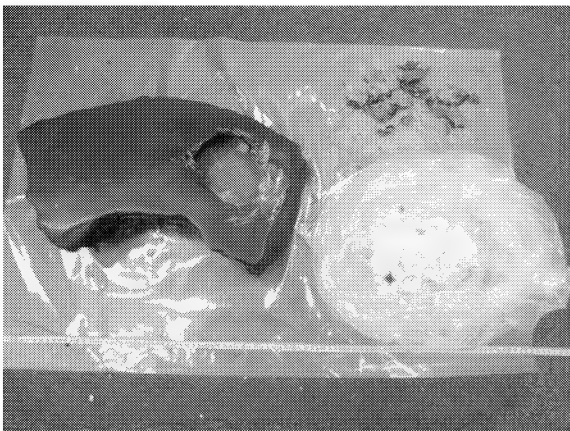


The arrested woman and man, both aged 20, claimed to be a waitress and a businessman respectively. After investigation, they would be charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug each and the cases will be brought up at Tsuen Wan Magistrates' Courts.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes methamphetamine at airport

Hong Kong Customs May 20 arrested two outgoing passengers at Hong Kong International Airport and seized about 2.1 kilograms of methamphetamine with a market value of about \$0.63 million.

Officers of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau May 20 intercepted two male passengers who were about to depart for Jakarta, Indonesia, at the airport. Customs officers found a batch of ceramic products inside their check-in baggage which aroused suspicion. In-depth examination led to the discovery of this batch of dangerous drugs concealed inside the ceramic products.

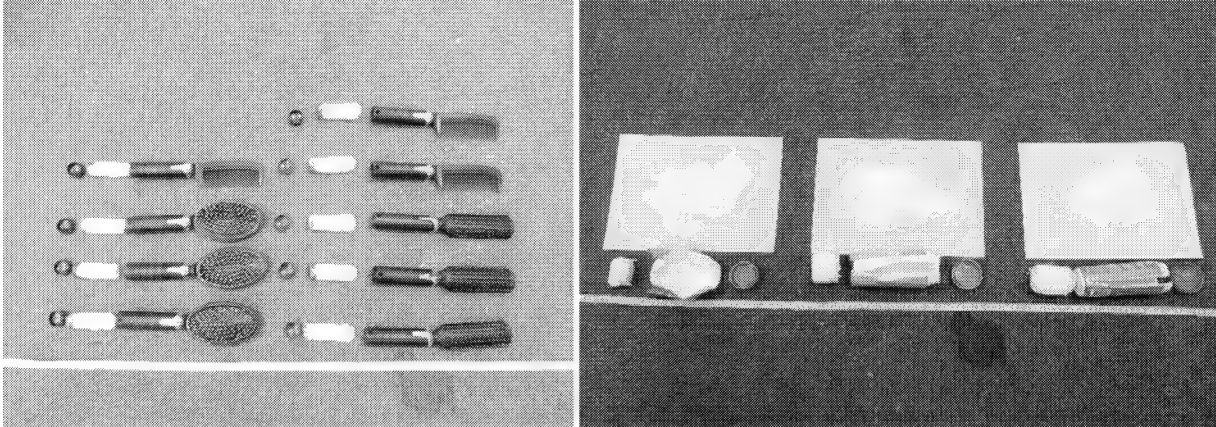


Both male arrestees, aged 34 and 22, who claimed to be an electrical technician and an automobile technician respectively, will be jointly charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug and will appear at Tsuen Wan Magistrates' Courts.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes cocaine at airport

Hong Kong Customs seized about 1.8 kilograms of cocaine, with a market value of about \$1.9 million, and arrested an incoming female passenger at Hong Kong International Airport May 22.

The arrested woman arrived in Hong Kong from Sao Paulo, Brazil, via Abu Dhabi May 22. During customs clearance, Customs officers found a batch of combs and hygiene products in her check-in baggage. X-ray check revealed suspicious images and in-depth examination led to the discovery of the drug concealed inside the combs and hygiene products.

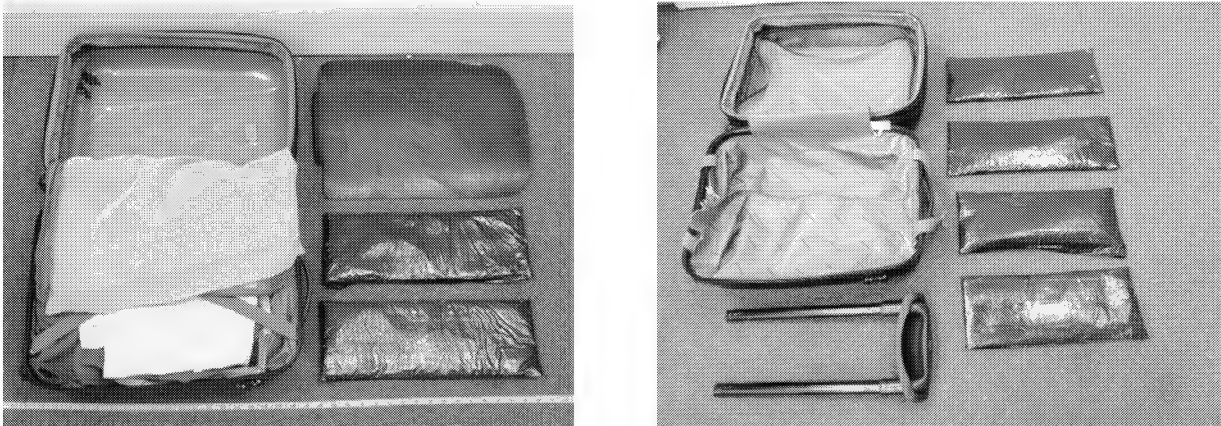


The arrested woman, aged 45 and claiming to be a nurse, was charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug and will appear at Tsuen Wan Magistrates' Courts.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes cocaine at airport

Hong Kong Customs seized about 3.2 kilograms of cocaine, with a market value of about \$3.43 million, and arrested an incoming male passenger at Hong Kong International Airport on May 28.

The arrested man arrived in Hong Kong from Milan, Italy, via Dubai, United Arab Emirates. During customs clearance, an X-ray check revealed suspicious images in the hand-carry suitcase. In-depth examination led to the discovery of about 3.2 kilograms of cocaine concealed inside the false compartments of the hand-carry suitcase.



The arrested man, aged 37 and claiming to be unemployed, was charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. He will appear at Tsuen Wan Magistrates' Courts May 31.

Iceland – Asylum protest drama on board Icelandair jet

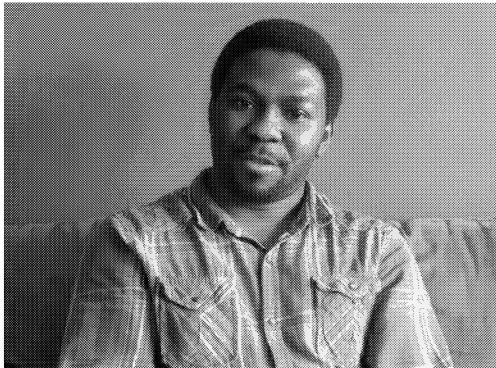
Two women have been arrested on an Icelandair jet after attempting to stop the deportation of a Nigerian man who came to Iceland as an asylum seeker.

According to a journalist on board, the two women shouted at passengers to get them to stand up in order to prevent the flight from leaving for Stockholm. The women were apprehended by police and handcuffed once off the plane. The captain of the flight refused to depart until the police could confirm that there were no other protestors on board. The flight has now departed with the asylum seeker, Eze Okafor, on board.



Canada Border
Services Agency

Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada



Eze Okafor came to Iceland from Sweden four years ago, having fled there from Nigeria, where he had been a victim of the Boko Haram terrorist organisation.

Earlier in May, the Immigration and Asylum Appeals Board of Iceland's Home Affairs Ministry ruled that Okafor could not be sent back to Sweden under the terms of the EU's Dublin Regulation, as too much time had elapsed since his arrival in Iceland.

"The Directorate of Immigration, however, has decided to proceed with the deportation, in contravention of the ruling from a superior authority," read a statement from No Borders Iceland. If Sweden rejects Okafor's asylum application, he may be sent back to Nigeria.

India – Two in Customs net for carrying 19 gold bars

Two people have been arrested by the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of Mumbai customs for carrying 19 gold bars worth over Rs. six million (\$116,700). The accused has been identified as Mohammad Aslam Shaikh, who was coming from Riyadh by a Jet Airways flight on May 2, had concealed the gold bars inside the motor of a washing machine.

He was arrested by the AIU officials while screening his luggage. During interrogation Shaikh, who holds an Indian passport, revealed that he has been given a photograph of a person whom he was to meet on landing in Mumbai, named Salman Khan, to hand over the gold bars. AIU has also arrested Khan.

"Prima facie, Shaikh was just a carrier. We are also investigating if some more people are involved in the smuggling racket," AIU official said, adding, "We keep special check on the people flying from Riyadh."

India – Cocaine seized at Delhi airport

A South African national was arrested at Delhi's Indira Gandhi international airport for carrying cocaine hidden in a chocolate date box. The woman passenger travelling with Emirates from Dubai arrived at the IGI Airport on May 4 when Customs officials stopped her for checking 'based on a specific input'.



"Detailed examination of her baggage and a personal search resulted in recovery of a white crystalline powder suspected to be cocaine. It was concealed in an octagonal box of "Nadiya" brand luxury chocolate dates in the form of pellets covered with transparent plastic tape," said Sanjay Mangal, commissioner of customs.

"The recovered white crystalline powder weighing around 595 g is believed to be cocaine," he said. An official said the passenger was arrested and further investigation was in process.

In a separate case, a passenger from Muscat was arrested for smuggling gold. The passenger was stopped for checking after he crossed the green channel. "Five gold chains weighing 1105 g was recovered from his pocket. A case has been registered," said an official. The value of the seized gold is over Rs 3.3 million (\$64,185).

India – Turtles seized at airport

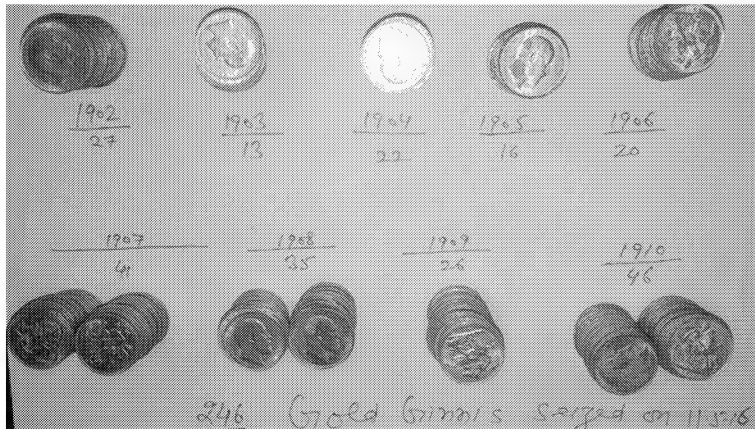
Customs officials confiscated 254 Indian Spotted Black Terrapins from the baggage of flyer Habibur Rehman on May 4.

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Rehman fled when the turtles were found in his luggage. The Taltala resident was bound for Bangkok on an Air India flight. (*The Times of India*)

India – Gold coins worth Rs 5.7 million found in toilet of Doha-Amritsar flight



The customs department has recovered 246 gold coins, valued at Rs 5.7 million (\$110,865), from a toilet of a Doha-Amritsar flight at the Sree Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport in Amritsar.

Customs commissioner Capt Sanjay Gahlot said, "Two packets were found hidden inside the rear toilet of the flight that landed from Doha on May 11. When the packets were opened, gold coins were found inside."

A case under the *Customs Act* has been registered and officials have initiated a detailed probe, said Gahlot.

India – 3 get 10-yr rigorous imprisonment for drug smuggling

The Additional Sessions Court, Ernakulam, has awarded ten years of rigorous imprisonment to three persons accused in a case related to smuggling of 1.988 kg of heroin through the Nedumbassery airport in 2014.

First accused Ajith E S of Idukki was awarded a fine of `200,000 also, for possession of drugs and attempt to illegally export it, while second accused Fahad K of Kannur and third accused Ajmal V P of Kannur were awarded a fine of `100,000 each for conspiring to illegally export heroin.

Acting on a tip-off, the Narcotics Control Bureau, Kochi Sub-zone, apprehended Ajith at the airport on November 13, 2014, while trying to smuggle out the contraband to Kuwait. Later, the two other accused were arrested.

India – Gold bars seized

Vigilant Singapore Airlines crew members led the air intelligence unit to an arriving smuggler, Kareem Shakeel Ahmed, at the Mumbai airport on May 13. The AIU seized 52 foreign marked gold bars, totally weighing 6.05 kg and worth Rs 16.5 million (\$320,925).

The flight, SQ 422, landed in Mumbai from Singapore around 10.30 am. Customs officers said on board crew members spotted Ahmed disposing of the consignment in a dustbin in the aircraft. "The smuggler threw the packet in such a way that it made some noise and drew the attention of the crew," said an AIU official. Ahmed was intercepted and admitted to being part of a gold smuggling racket. "He has been arrested under provisions of the *Customs Act* and will be produced before the magistrate for judicial custody," said the official. (*Mid-Day*)

India – Indian woman used to smuggle narcotics by Nigerian mafia

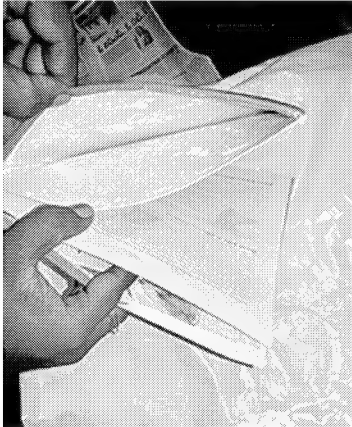
In a disturbing trend, Nigerian drug mafia has started using Indians as couriers to smuggle narcotics. This startling fact came to light during the interrogation of a 23-year-old woman caught at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport on May 17 trying to smuggle cocaine worth Rs 100 million into the country.

The young courier fell for an all-expense paid foreign holiday, unaware that Nigerian fraudsters would conceal 1.9-kg cocaine in the covers of books that she would be asked to deliver. The courier's task was to pick up a consignment from an international passenger at the Dubai International airport lounge and hand it over to her contacts (drug peddlers) in India. However, the plan went awry and she ended up behind bars.



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The arrested woman, Jyothija, is a New Delhi resident. She landed at the Hyderabad airport from Dubai during transit to New Delhi. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence sleuths recovered two international flight tickets: New Delhi-Dubai, Dubai-Hyderabad; and a domestic ticket: Hyderabad-New Delhi, which she was supposed to use at the RGI Airport, but was nabbed before she completed the last leg of her travel.

On questioning, the courier said she met a man with 'black' complexion at the Dubai international airport lounge on the instruction of a recently-befriended Nigerian person. The stranger gave her a few books, which contained the contraband.

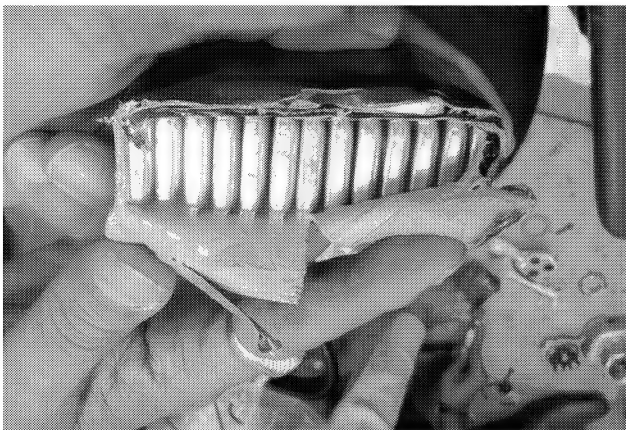
The woman, reportedly told interrogators, she first met her Nigerian friend at a mall in New Delhi when the latter was involved in a fight with a shop owner. The Nigerian took her help in convincing the shop owner about the issue at hand.

"Since then, the two became friends and over a period of time they became close. However, the Nigerian started laying a trap and used her innocence in getting the drug consignment. He lured her with a four-day international holiday to Dubai and she fell for it. Her Nigerian friend informed her that she has to collect a few books at the international lounge and get them to India," a credible source in the DRI said.

Sources said, after her sponsored holiday, she collected the books from the man. "In Dubai, if any person is caught with narcotics, they get death penalty. In this case, the book supplier landed from some other country to Dubai and met the woman at the Dubai airport's lounge and passed on the consignment." Sources said, "this was the first time an Indian woman has been used for smuggling drugs into the country by narcotic gangs. Earlier, a South African woman was caught but never an Indian, which is a matter of concern," they added.

India – Smugglers try to 'pump' gold bars into city

In yet another ingenious way of smuggling gold bars from the Gulf region into Bengaluru, sleuths of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence unearthed 120 gold bars, worth over Rs. 42.5 million (\$826,625), concealed inside a consignment of pressure pumps that arrived at the cargo complex of the Kempegowda International Airport.



Sources from the DRI said the consignment of pressure pumps in four large cartons arrived at the cargo complex at the KIA on April 29.

Imported for Bharati Trading Company, Bengaluru, the consignment raised suspicion as no representative came forward to claim it after more than two weeks. Meanwhile, investigators received specific input that large quantities of gold bars would be smuggled through Bengaluru to Kerala.

"We opened the cartons and found six small boxes inside. Further examination revealed 24 brand new pressure pumps. A scan of the pumps didn't show anything and that is when our team cut open the aluminium motor

shaft of a pump and found 15 blocks of gold hidden inside," said a DRI officer who was part of the investigation team.

The team opened more pumps to reveal a total of 120 gold bars weighing 13.99 kg. The importer, identified as an agent from Malappuram, Kerala, had given a Bengaluru address for the import of the pumps. While the consign-

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ment clearing agent has been detained, the DRI has launched a hunt for the smuggler from Kerala who is suspected to have smuggled over a dozen similar consignments through the city airport. (*The Hindu*)

India – Mumbai Customs arrest Chinese national trying to smuggle Rs 13.2 million worth of foreign currency



The Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of Mumbai Customs seized foreign currency worth Rs. 13,270,000 from a Chinese national at the Mumbai International Airport on May 20.

The 200,000 USD was seized from Wu Xiaobin, who has Chinese passport E59487538 and was departing from Mumbai for Hong Kong. Xiobin was to take Jet Airways Flight number 9W 076 that was expected to leave for Hong Kong at 1.20am on May 20. The passenger was been arrested.

He was detained in the departure area on the basis of profiling," said an AIU Official. The US currency was concealed in two black colour sheets that were pasted on the upper portion of two checked-in trolley bags. Each trolley bag was hiding 100,000 US dollars. (*Mid-Day*)

India – Woman held at IGIA for travelling on fake passport

A woman has been arrested at the Indira Gandhi International Airport for trying to fly to Moscow on a forged passport. Officials said the incident occurred on May 22 when a couple identified as B Sachdeva and his wife S Sachdeva arrived at terminal III of the IGIA at about 4:AM to travel to Moscow.

Acting on a tip-off, CISF personnel intercepted the duo in the immigration area and found that the woman had a fake passport and had affixed a fake immigration stamp on it. A joint interrogation was later carried out by CISF and immigration authorities and officials said while the man had bona fide travel documents, the women had a forged passport. "The duo has been handed over to Delhi Police which arrested them," a senior CISF officer said.

India – Air passenger held with American dollars

Abbas, 35, was caught at the airport in Tiruchi on May 23 after he was found smuggling American dollars in his luggage. He came to the airport to board the Malindo Air flight to Malaysia.

Officials of the Air Intelligence Unit at the airport on suspicion checked his bag and found American dollars concealed in a special cavity created inside. The seized dollars was worth Rs. 3.5 million in Indian rupees (\$68,075). He was arrested and later let on bail, sources said. The sources believe that he might have been a "carrier".

India – Mumbai: Mandatory baggage screening through green channel scrapped

As per a verbal mandate given by the higher officials of Customs, the mandatory hand baggage checking at the green channel of the Customs clearance at the International Airport has been scrapped. The bags passing through the green channel, which is for passengers not having any dutiable goods or other items for which declaration is required, are now being checked randomly.

"Screening the hand baggage of each passenger was a must but now not every passenger will have to wait for the checking, thus reducing the passenger rush. This will help the passengers especially during the peak hours," said a Customs officer.

The intention behind this move is to reduce the load of passengers and prevent overcrowding, but experts believe that this will also be a smooth passage for smugglers. "There have been cases of cigarette smuggling; huge

amount of saffron have been caught in the hand baggage of the passengers in the green channel before the mandate. Smugglers were more scared when the compulsory checking was in place. Though there are many checking points in the Mumbai airport, this order will somewhere reduce the fear,” explained a senior officer, on condition of anonymity.

Rajiv Ranjan, Additional Commissioner of Mumbai Airport Customs said, “All the modifications are being done according to a recent passenger’s survey report, which had maximum dissatisfied passengers in green channel. This simply means that all suspicious passengers will be checked and frisked but not each and every passenger.”

India – Gold worth Rs 10.6 million seized from aircraft toilet in Chennai

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence officials have seized gold worth Rs. 10.6 million (\$206,170) from a flight that arrived in Chennai from Thailand.

Following a tip-off that smugglers would remove the gold concealed in a toilet during the domestic trip of an aircraft after it arrived from international destination, DRI officials kept close vigil on such flights landing in Chennai.

The team conducted a search in a flight that arrived in Chennai from Bangkok on May 26, an official release said. “During the search, the officials recovered 3.6 kg of gold valued at Rs. 10.6 million concealed in a toilet of the aircraft”, it said. “As there was no claimant for the concealed gold, it was seized under the *Customs Act*,” the release said. (*The Hindu*)

India – Four Afghans among 8 held for smuggling gold worth Rs 35 million

Four Afghans and a senior official of a firm managing cargo operations at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi are among eight persons who have been arrested for smuggling gold worth Rs 35 million. With their arrest, the officials of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence claimed to have busted a syndicate of gold smugglers involving an international airline crew and ground handling staff at the airport.

Acting on specific intelligence that foreign-origin gold was being smuggled into the country by a crew member of Afghanistan-based Kam Air flight arriving from Kabul, the DRI officials laid a trap on May 30 and intercepted four gold bars weighing over 13 kg valued at about Rs 35 million, they said. “A flight engineer of Kam Air, two airport staff and five conspirators have been arrested,” said R K Digvijay, Joint Director, DRI Delhi zonal unit.

The modus operandi was that the crew member of Kam Air would hand over the gold bars to the airport staff inside the aircraft. The airport staff would then conceal the gold bars in their shoes and take them out of the airport from the staff gate on the tarmac side, he said. “Thereafter, they would deliver the gold bars near the airport to the other members of the syndicate for disposal in the local market,” Digvijay said.

Indonesia – Chinese man sentenced to death for smuggling 90 kg of crystal meth

A court in Tangerang has handed down a death sentence to a 22-year-old Chinese man for smuggling nearly 90 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine.

The panel of judges at the Tangerang District Court on 04/05 found the man, Ng Ka Fung, guilty of violating the 2009 narcotics law. “The defendant is sentenced to death as he is convincingly proven to have violated Indonesian law for possessing 88 kilograms of narcotics,” presiding judge Nirwana said. The verdict matched the prosecutors’ demand.

Authorities arrested Ka Fung in August last year at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport after discovering 88 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine, or “sabu” as it is called in Indonesia, in his suitcase. (*Jakarta Globe*)

Indonesia – Nigerians jailed for 20 years for drug trafficking

The West Jakarta district court has meted out 20-year jail terms each for two Nigerians for drug trafficking.

Chukwudkpe Donotus Okorie (30) and Hyginus Oginuwa (44) were arrested by the customs authority at the Soekarno Hatta airport in October 2015 on charge of smuggling 4,000 grams of methamphetamine into the country. The two tried to smuggle the drug from China into the country allegedly to be delivered to two Indonesians identified as Elizabeth and Harahap.

Presiding judge M. Tatas said in his verdict on May 11 the two were also fined Rp1 billion each. (Antara News)

Indonesia – Passengers on Singapore-Jakarta flight skip Indonesian immigration

Passengers on a Lion Air flight from Singapore were wrongly ferried to the domestic terminal upon arrival in the Jakarta and ended up bypassing immigration. As a result of the mix-up, some 16 passengers on that flight have yet to get their passports stamped.



After Lion Air flight JT161 landed in Soekarno-Hatta airport May 10, some of the passengers were picked up in a shuttle bus that was meant to take them to Terminal 2, the international terminal. However, it brought them to Terminal 1 instead, which is meant for domestic passengers and does not require passengers to show their passports. When the authorities realised the mistake, they tried to find the affected passengers but could not find everyone.

According to an account from one of the passengers on the flight, after she was picked up by the shuttle-bus, there was a change in bus

drivers and the new bus driver took them to the wrong terminal. Natalie Gandarum said that she was confused to find herself at the baggage claim section instead of immigration after getting off the bus. "I thought to myself. This is strange. Why didn't they stamp my passport first?" she said.

When she asked airport officials if she needed her passport stamped, they assumed she was a domestic passenger and said it was not necessary. "I tried telling them that I was on a flight from Singapore. I could tell (the officials) were confused but they insisted that I didn't need to have my passport stamped," she said.

It was only when a few other passengers complained about the same problem that airport officials started to believe her story. By the time officials sprang into action to identify the other passengers though, some had already left the airport.

While there were about 180 passengers on the flight, only the estimated 40 passengers who boarded that particular shuttle bus were affected. Indonesia's Transport Ministry said that the problem occurred because another Lion Air flight from Padang had landed in an apron close by about the same time as the flight from Singapore.

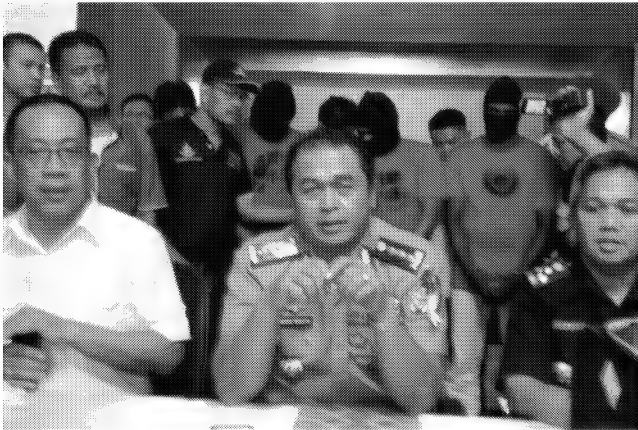
"The airport bus driver ferried passengers from Singapore, thinking they were from Padang. When he realised that the passengers were from an international flight, it was too late because the passengers had already exited from Terminal 1," Hemi Pamuranhardjo, the head of the communication and information bureau of the Transport Ministry said.

The immigration office said on May 16 that Lion Air has been ordered to locate the 16 passengers whose passports remain unstamped. (*Malay Mail*)

Indonesia – Three Malaysians arrested in Indonesia for smuggling of syabu

Three Malaysians have been arrested for attempting to smuggle 1kg crystal methamphetamine or syabu into the country. The suspects, identified only as SS and KS, both 30, and TS, 26, are believed to be members of an international drug ring that also works with a local dealer in Makassar, South Sulawesi, who is still at large.

All three have been charged under Article 114 of the 2009 Narcotics Law, which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. They have also been charged under Law No.17/2006 on customs and immigration violations.



South Sulawesi Police narcotics director Sr Comr Eka Yudha Satriawan said that the case unfolded when customs officers detained SS shortly after he landed at the Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport in Makassar from Kuala Lumpur on May 16. "Suspicious" items were detected in his suitcase as it passed through the airport's X-ray machine.

"We immediately examined them and found packages containing white crystals. After conducting a narcotics test, the items proved to be methamphetamine or Syabu weighing 1.078kg," said Makassar Customs Services and Surveillance Office head Gusmiadirrahman. The contraband was packed in plastic bags labelled "coconut peanut".

SS allegedly told investigators that he had been instructed to hand over the packages to KS and TS, who were staying at a hotel in Makassar. (*The Star*)

Indonesia – Authorities foil attempt to smuggle lobsters to S'pore

Authorities at Ngurah Rai International Airport in Bali thwarted an attempt to smuggle 122,400 baby lobsters from Indonesia to Singapore on May 22. An investigation is now underway to pursue the perpetrators.

Habrin Yake, Denpasar's Fish Quarantine and Inspection Agency head, said the baby lobsters were found in 24 boxes, set to be sent to Singapore via a private company. "In the document, the lobsters were declared as garment products," Habrin said.

The failed smuggling attempt was uncovered after agency officers became suspicious of the package. Later on, the agency coordinated with customs officers and airport authorities. Then, an examination of the package was performed. "When the box passed through the X-Ray machine, we found baby lobsters," he said.



The living baby lobsters were packed into small plastic bags with water. There were several baby lobsters in one plastic bag. Several plastic bags were put inside each box and the plastic bags were covered with cloth. "They put cloth at the bottom, then put in the lobsters, and then covered it again with cloth. They try to fool us with those garments," Habrin said.

Habrin said that trading baby lobsters was prohibited as stipulated in marine and fisheries regulations. The regulations signed last year ban the catch and trading of lobsters weighing less than 200 grams. Authorities, however, have not yet arrested the perpetrators. A joint team to investigate the case has been established, consisting of officials from the customs office, the airport authorities, the quarantine agency and the police.

Jatmiko, a Ngurah Rai customs official, said the smuggling attempt violated the customs law, as the products were sent illegally without proper documents. "We are working to find the perpetrators," he said.

All the baby lobsters were released into the sea near Denpasar on May 22. (*The Jakarta Post*)

Indonesia – Ivory smuggling

An officer shows confiscated ivory during a press conference of ivory smuggling from Nigeria at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Jakarta, Indonesia, May 26, 2016.



As many as 377 pieces of ivory that hidden in suitcases were successfully seized by a team of Soekarno-Hatta International Airport Customs and Excise in Jakarta on May 21 from flight EY474.

Indonesia – Two Taiwanese drug smugglers arrested in Bali

Police and immigration officers arrested two Taiwanese nationals who smuggled 70 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine to the country at I Gusti Ngurah Rai Airport in Denpasar, Bali, on 28/05.



Speaking to reporters in Denpasar, Ronny F. Sompie, the Justice Ministry's Immigration Affairs general director, said immigration officers and police at the airport nabbed the Taiwanese nationals when they were about to leave for Taiwan at around 2 p.m. on May 28.

Yu Tsai Chen (44) and Hsiao Tzu Hung (30) smuggled 70 kilos of crystal methamphetamine, known by its street name "sabu," by hiding it in small generators.

The two were recorded entering Bali on May 23. On May 24, police found the same amount of crystal methamphetamine packed into 14 different bags at the Arcadia Housing Complex in Tangerang, Banten.

Two couriers working for a drug syndicate reportedly led by the Taiwanese duo—identified by their initials S and A—were also arrested during the drug bust.

Chen and Hung have so far refused to admit the drugs found in Tangerang belonged to them. Both will be flown to Jakarta for further interrogation. (*Jakarta Globe*)

Israel – Israel bars Turkish Airlines pilot with Iranian passport

Israel prevented the pilot of a Turkish Airlines civilian flight from entering the country on May 13 because he is an Iranian passport-holder. Instead, the pilot was flown back to Turkey by the Turkish carrier.

The incident involved a routine Turkish Airlines flight to Ben-Gurion Airport. When the crew arrived at passport control, the pilot was found to be holding an Iranian passport, and he was not allowed to proceed. It was not clear whether the pilot, who was not named, also had a Turkish or other passport.

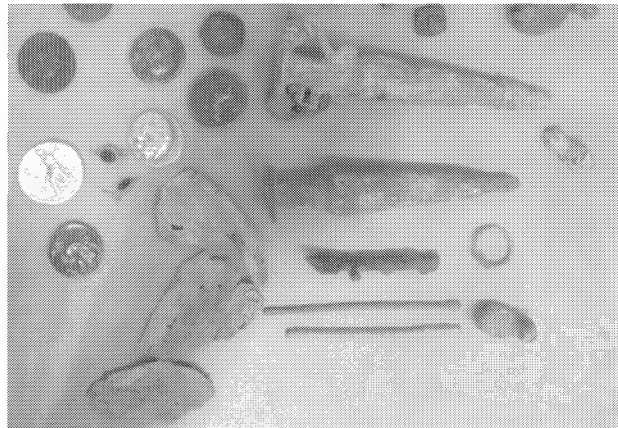
The Turkish authorities asked Israel to make an exception in his case, and allow him to enter Israel for one night only. But Israel's Shin Bet security agency rejected the request since it did not want a precedent set. The airline acknowledged that it had "made a mistake," and the pilot was flown back to Turkey on a subsequent flight.

Turkish airlines hired some 200 Iranian pilots last year because of a shortage in its ranks, and assured Israel at the time that none of them would fly the Tel Aviv route. (*The Times of Israel*)

Israel – Driver for Norwegian Embassy caught smuggling antiquities

A driver employed by the Norwegian embassy in Israel was arrested at Allenby Bridge carrying a haul of antiquities while a senior Norwegian diplomat was in the vehicle, the Israel Tax Authority said.

According to a press release by the Israel Tax Authority, on May 31, a Mercedes bearing diplomatic plates pulled up at the Allenby border crossing and was approached by customs officials for an exam. While checking the body panels of the car they found 10 kilograms of ancient coins and figurines stashed inside of cardboard boxes.



The driver was named by the Tax Authority as Issa Nagam, a resident of Beit Hanina in East Jerusalem. He was arrested on suspicion of smuggling antiquities, and released on bond later in the day by a judge from the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

No details about the origin of the antiquities or their value was given by the Tax Authority, but a photo they released showed a mound of dozens of small coins and around a dozen small figurines. (*The Jerusalem Post*)

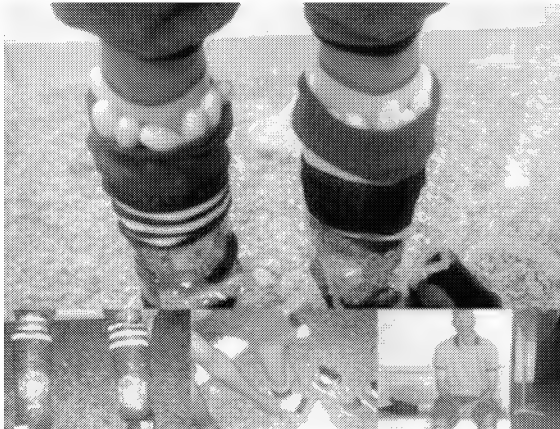
Italy – Dubai airport a transit point for drugs traffic to Europe, says Italy

Dubai airport has become a transit point for smugglers bringing high-value narcotics into Europe, the Italian police said on May 16.



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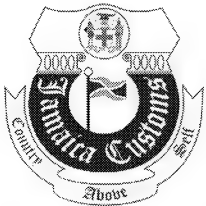
Two smugglers have been arrested in recent days at Rome's Fiumicino airport after arriving via Dubai, they said. One was an 19-year-old Slovak with two kilos (4.4 pounds) of cocaine stashed in a false bottom of his suitcase who had departed from Rio de Janeiro, while the other was a Nigerian who hid vials of cocaine in his socks.

The smugglers do not leave Dubai's transit lounge, as this would expose them to customs checks, the police said in a press release. Instead, they use the Dubai-Europe leg and the tough anti-drug reputation of the United Arab Emirates to mask the country where they began their trip.

"The trick aims at providing the smuggler with an itinerary that looks unsuspicious to police officers," they said.

Jamaica – US tourist convicted in Jamaica after undeclared gun found

Police in Jamaica say a Georgia tourist has been convicted of illegal gun charges after an undeclared pistol was found in her luggage.



The Jamaica Constabulary Force has identified the woman as Nikki Adams, a 33-year-old insurance underwriter from Georgia. They did not provide a hometown for her in a statement May 16. She has been ordered to pay roughly \$9,000 in fines or do 18 months of hard labor in a Jamaican lockup. It was not immediately known if she had a lawyer.

Customs officials at an island airport found a Taurus pistol in her suitcase. Police say she pleaded guilty to the charge. (*Cherokee Tribune & Ledger-News*)

Jamaica – Bahamian nabbed in airport cocaine bust

Fifty-two-year-old Bahamian Burlin Mitchell Starr spent the night in Jamaican jail after being arrested at the Norman Manley International Airport for trying to smuggle two pounds of cocaine out of the island. Starr is from South Beach in Nassau, Bahamas.

It is reported that about 9 a.m. May 20, officers were conducting security checks in the departure hall on outgoing passengers checking-in to board a flight destined for Nassau. During the process, three rectangular shaped parcels, wrapped in masking tape in Starr's luggage were cut open. The police say the parcels containing the cocaine with an estimated street value of \$1 million.

Jamaica – Woman destined for London nabbed with cocaine at NMIA

A Jamaican woman was arrested on suspicion of breaches of the *Dangerous Drugs Act* at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston, on May 22.

Reports from the police are that about 4:15 pm, a team was conducting security checks in the departure hall on passengers waiting to board a flight destined for London, England. During the process, the female passenger's luggage was searched and two packages containing approximately 2.5 pounds of cocaine — which has a street value of just over J\$1 million — were found. She was subsequently arrested. (*Jamaica Observer*)

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Jamaica – Two Canadians held with cocaine at Sangster airport

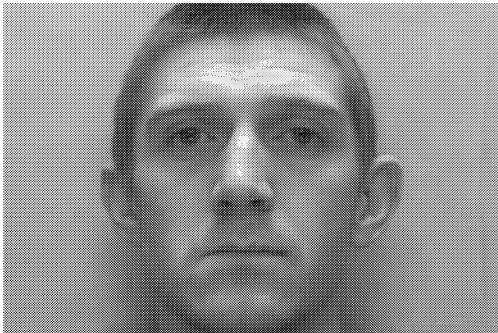
Two **Canadian** men arrested on drug charges in separate incidents at the Sangster International Airport in St. James on May 24, are to appear in court soon. Fifty-three-year-old Joseph Southhill of Dundas in Ontario, Canada and 52-year-old Orville Brown of Kingston Road in Toronto, Canada have been charged with possession of, dealing in and attempting to export cocaine.

The police say Southhill was held about 11:50 p.m., when checks made on luggage belonging to passengers scheduled to board a flight destined for Toronto, Canada turned up irregularities. According to the police, a tin labelled as cocoa powder was removed from Southhill's suitcase and opened in his presence. It was found to contain cocaine weighing approximately one and a half pounds.

Later, officers were again conducting security checks in the departure hall on passengers checking-in to board a flight destined for Toronto. The police say Brown was searched and four parcels, containing cocaine weighing approximately two and a half pounds found.

Jersey – Heroin addict jailed after cocaine find

A 27-year-old man who swallowed a package containing £2,000 worth of cocaine before getting on a flight from Liverpool to Jersey has been jailed for four-and-a-half years. John Michael Childs also concealed 15g of cannabis internally before his trip to visit his brother and cousin on 8 January this year, the Royal Court heard on May 12.



Childs was stopped by a Customs officer at the Airport after his plane landed, Crown Advocate Matthew Maletroit said and despite initially denying that he was a drug user, swabs were carried out on Childs' possessions, which gave positive readings for cocaine, heroin and THC – the principal psychoactive constituent of cannabis.

After a strip search found nothing illegal, Childs was taken to the Hospital for an X-ray, which showed a suspicious object in his abdomen and he later told officers that he had concealed a quantity of herbal cannabis internally.

Less than an hour later, officers found Childs in his cell with a black plastic-wrapped package that had been opened and herbal cannabis scattered on the floor.

Due to concerns that Childs may have swallowed something, officers took him back to the Hospital for a second X-ray, which again revealed something suspicious and two days later Childs produced a package containing 20.11g of cocaine, the Superior Number – which only convenes for the most serious cases – was told.

During interview Childs told officers that he was an unemployed cocaine and heroin addict and that he had come to Jersey to visit family and look for work and Childs, who has 36 previous convictions, pleaded guilty to one count of importing herbal cannabis and one charge of importing cocaine on the basis that the drugs were for his personal use. (*Jersey Evening Post*)

Kuwait – Kuwait will require a DNA sample, not just a passport, from visitors

Anyone looking to enter Kuwait this year will need more than a passport to get through airport security. The country has announced that it will ask all visitors to submit a mandatory DNA sample upon arrival at the Kuwait International Airport, where tests will take place in an on-site center designated for this purpose. The new protocol is set to launch late this year.

So what exactly will be collected? Foreigners will need to submit one of two things upon landing: either a swab of saliva, or a small blood sample (a few drops, which will be smeared on a card). Those samples could then be used to connect a visitor to a crime scene if there's a match. Kuwaitis and expats must abide by the law as well: Citizens will have their DNA samples taken at mobile centers, and residents will need to submit DNA during a medical exam conducted by the health ministry when their visas are being issued or renewed.

According to officials, the samples—which won't be tested for diseases, as it's against the law—are to crack down on crime and terrorism. Anyone who uses the DNA for other purposes, like revealing someone's private information, will be in violation of the law as well. Likewise, forging DNA documents could result in a punishment of up to seven years in prison and/or a fine. Anyone who refuses to have his or her sample collected would also be in violation of the law, but the consequences of such a refusal remain unclear. (*Condé Nast Traveler*)

Kuwait – Two Egyptians get death for smuggling drugs into country

The Criminal Court on May 10 sentenced two Egyptians to death for smuggling huge quantities of drugs into the country. According to case papers police acting on information began investigations and managed to arrest one of the suspects when he entered the country with a truck from Iraq. In the truck there was a huge quantity of drugs hidden in secret compartment. During preliminary interrogation he admitted to the charge and gave police the name of his accomplice who was waiting to receive the shipment.

Customs officers at Kuwait International Airport arrested an Asian man for trying to smuggle one kilogram of marijuana. The officers got suspicious when they noticed the agitated demeanor of the Asian when he approached the luggage inspection counter. The officers then inspected the suspect's luggage where they found the marijuana hidden among his clothes. During interrogation, the suspect confessed that his intention was to sell the marijuana.

In another incident, customs officers arrested a European national working in a leading company as he was found to be carrying two bottles of imported alcohol upon his arrival at the airport. (*Arab Times*)

Macedonia – Attempts of Customs fraud, smuggling medicines prevented



Cash

12,000 Euros and 400 Swiss Francs, found at the Skopje Alexander the Great Airport, during examination of a Macedonian citizen, who arrived from Zürich, Switzerland. A total of 12,000 Euros and 400 Swiss Francs of which, according to legal provisions, 10,000 Euros were returned to him, as an amount that can be freely taken in the country.

Customs Fraud

At the Skopje Alexander the Great Airport Customs office section for clearance of goods, 800 sets of systems for infusion were declared for customs clearance, destined for an importer from Skopje, originating in China. During the documentary examination, it was established that the approval issued by

the Agency for Drugs and Medical Aids indicated Germany as country of manufacture, while in the customs declaration, China was country of departure. During the physical examination of the goods it was established that the goods were produced in China, but the packaging indicated that they were made in Germany. The Customs



Administration informed the Agency for Drugs and Medical Aids about the case and pharmaceutical inspectors checked the seized goods, which ended up with a decision prohibiting the import of the 800 infusion system sets. The goods were destroyed at the Drisla landfill.

Malaysia – 19, including two immigration officers, held for human trafficking

Police arrested 19 people, including two immigration officers, who were in cahoots with a human trafficking syndicate that facilitated illegal journey for Sri Lankans to Switzerland using tampered Malaysian passports in a three-week operation.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar said the syndicate charged RM60,000 for each migrant seeking greener pastures in Geneva, Switzerland. He said the syndicate was made up of Malaysians, Sri Lankans and Indians. He said apart from the two immigration officers, among those detained were five Sri Lankan migrants and the syndicate's agents, runners and facilitators.

He said police learnt that the syndicate paid between RM1,000 and RM2,000 for genuine Malaysian international passports of local Indians whose facial features resemble the Sri Lankan migrants who intend to slip into a third country. The syndicate made minor changes to the passports after tampering with it and initiated the travel process of the Sri Lankans.

Khalid said with the help of crooked immigration officers at KL International Airport (KLIA) who receive kickbacks of between RM150 and RM350 for each migrant, the ploy kicks off when the Sri Lankans arrive at the airport legally with Sri Lankan passports and return tickets as proof of their return to their country.

However, when the foreigners arrive at the KLIA's satellite building, the syndicate would hand them the tampered Malaysian passports, air tickets and boarding passes for a flight to Netherlands. Khalid said subsequently, the Sri Lankans would take a connecting flight from Netherlands to Geneva where they remain to seek greener pastures. He said the operation was carried out between April 12 and May 6 by the federal police Special Branch.

Malaysia – Man who hid syabu in tea bagged

Hiding a kilogram of syabu inside a packet of Chinese tea placed inside a briefcase was not enough to get a 20-year-old drug trafficker past customs at the international airport in Kota Kinabalu.



The suspect underwent a random inspection where his briefcase was scanned upon arrival from Kuala Lumpur on May 19, said Sabah Customs department director Datuk Janathan Kandok.

"When our men scanned the briefcase, they spotted the packet and found the syabu packed inside the Chinese tea packet," he told a press conference.

Janathan said they were now investigating the suspect and his connections with drug trafficking groups. "We are not sure if the drugs were meant for the Sabah market," he said, adding that they were also checking if the suspect was involved in other trips into the state for drug trafficking activities.

Investigations are being carried out under the Section 39B of *Dangerous Drugs Act* which carried the mandatory death sentence if found guilty by the courts. (*The Star*)

Malaysia – Another case of 'ice' in tea bags at KKIA

The Sabah Customs Department made its biggest drug bust this year with the arrest of a 34-year-old businessman carrying more than RM3.5mil worth of syabu.



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In the second case of syabu being hidden in tea bags, the Sabahan was detained after he retrieved his luggage upon arrival at the Kota Kinabalu International Airport on May 21.

"The suspect had just arrived from Kuala Lumpur when we stopped him at about 3.40pm," state Customs director Datuk Dr Janathan Kandok said, adding that Customs officers then brought the man to have his luggage scanned. The officers suspected something amiss when the scan showed a box inside the luggage.

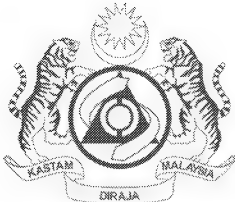
Upon further inspection, they found drugs

believed to be methamphetamine or syabu packed inside tea bags in the box. Janathan said the drugs weighed about 6.239kg, adding that the suspect is believed to be part of drug syndicate.

Asked why the man did not have his luggage scanned at the Kuala Lumpur airport, Janathan said it was because passengers on domestic flights are not subjected to baggage checks because there are no Customs duties involved. "It is different here because Sabah is a known transit point. That is why our officers are constantly monitoring and using canines to detect the presence of drugs," he explained. (*The Star*)

Malaysia – Customs: No double standards on checks, says DG

Customs has denied accusations by some quarters that it practises double standards when conducting inspections on arriving passengers at airports.



Its Director Datuk Dr Janathan Kandok said the public must understand that the department's officers conduct inspections based on risk assessment. "Some people objected to being inspected and ask why certain people are exempted, such as highly-ranked government officers. We work on risk assessment and based on this, we determine that the risk for a high-ranked government officer to smuggle contraband is very low," he said.

On the other hand, the risk of strangers, such as foreigners, to bring in contraband, is high.

As for items belonging to royalty or heads of state, Janathan explained that under the law Customs officers need not touch their suitcases. Janathan said there were also objections, especially from Muslims, on the use of canines to detect concealed drugs at airports.

"I must explain that other than the scanning machines at the front, we also have a canine unit at the back, to sniff out drugs. These dogs have been trained to detect certain types of drugs and, therefore, the possibility of smugglers to successfully traffic drugs through cargo is very low, except if they did not use the conveyors."

[Although the dogs are stationed at the back, in some countries like Australia, the dogs sniff the luggage of each and every passenger as they wait their turn to be cleared regardless of the passenger's religious inclination. When the dog gets a whiff of contraband, it immediately sits beside the luggage and the person and luggage would be directed to a special room].

Janathan added that it is very important for the public to understand the gravity of the situation and the duty of the Customs officers. "Some people said it is unclean to use dogs. However, we have our priority and national security is more important. If something is unclean, it can be washed. But if it involves thousands of lives, then you de-

cide which is more important? So I implore the public to please give their cooperation to our narcotics unit," he said.

Janathan added that although the department's canine unit had been placed at the airport, some drugs did get through because of too many flights at one time and the limitations of the unit. Currently, the unit has four dogs at its disposal. (*Daily Express*)

Malaysia – Bangladeshi man fined RM30,000 for smuggling 35 black tortoises

A Bangladeshi man was fined RM30,000 in default three months' jail by the Sessions Court in Sepang May 26 for smuggling 35 black tortoises or *Geoclemys Hamiltonnii*, which are endangered wildlife species protected by law, at the KL International Airport two months ago.

Judge Harith Sham Mohamed Yasin handed down the sentence after teacher Kazi Faruk Ahmed, 36, admitted committing the offence at the airport's departure hall at 9.45am on March 23. He was charged under Section 71 of the *Wildlife Conservation Act* 2010 which provides a fine not exceeding RM100,000 and jail not more than three years upon conviction.

Kazi was heading to Indonesia from Dhaka and was arrested while in transit at the KLIA. The 35 black tortoises were found in his two luggage bags and upon questioning, he failed to produce the letter of approval to be in possession of the protected wildlife. (*Borneo Post*)

Malaysia – Indonesian to hang for drug in luggage

An Indonesian woman was sentenced to death by a High Court in George Town for trafficking in 4.02kg of methamphetamine.



Judicial Commissioner Colin Lawrence Sequerah ruled on May 30 that the defence had failed to raise a reasonable doubt to the prosecution's case against Rita Krisdianti. She was charged with drug trafficking after being found with the drug in her luggage at the Penang International Airport by Customs officers on July 10, 2013, upon arriving from Hong Kong.

The methamphetamine was found in a brown-coloured package concealed beneath the black lining at the bottom of her luggage. The offence under Section 39B(2) of the *Dangerous Drugs Act* 1952 carries the mandatory death sentence upon conviction.

In finding her guilty, Sequerah said the accused failed to rebut the presumption of trafficking. "She should have suspected that there was something wrong with what she was carrying so the court presumed that she knew what she was carrying. The circumstances of the case should have aroused her suspicions," he added.

Krisdianti was arrested in Penang after Customs officers noticed a suspicious green-coloured image appearing on the monitor of the scanning machine and later found it to be drugs. She had just arrived from a transit in the former British colony and was believed to have the intention of travelling to Thailand by bus from Penang to deliver the package. (*The Star*)

Malaysia – Immigration Department acts against 37 officers for sabotaging system

The Immigration Department has acted against 37 officers for sabotaging the Malaysian Immigration System (myIMMs), sacking 15 of them, suspending 14 and freezing the salary movement of eight, said director-general Datuk Seri Sakib Kusmi.



He said the penalties were meted out to these 37 officers who included those working at major entry points into the country, information technology staff and officers working with the vendor of the system. "Some of them had joined the department just six months earlier while others had worked for up to 15 years," he told a press conference at the KL International Airport May 31.

Asked whether the officers would be prosecuted for misuse of authority, he said that would depend on the investigation conducted by the police. Sakib said about 20 more officers suspected

to have been involved in the sabotage were under observation and subjected to an internal investigation by the department. He also said that 63 officers at various levels had been transferred, and the department would implement a large-scale transfer exercise at KLIA to restrict the activity.

Sakib said the departmental probe found that the sabotage had begun in 2010 and involved a network master-minded by syndicates from abroad that made use of Malaysians, among them immigration officers. The sabotage became increasingly apparent in 2014 and caused millions of ringgit in losses to the government and posed a threat to national security, he said. "The syndicate hacked or breached our system with the help of the involved immigration officers and it was able to control the movement of anyone entering or leaving the country," he said.

He said that to improve immigration screening at KLIA, the department installed a 'snake queue' at the arrival and departure halls and reviewed the standard operating procedures to curb abuse of power and violation of integrity among the officers. The installation of the snake queue was most important to filter foreigners entering the country, especially in curbing those involved in human trafficking or terrorism, he said.

On May 26, Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said about 100 people, among them immigration officers and syndicate members, were under investigation by the authorities for suspected sabotage of the myIMMs system. He said police intelligence and the Immigration Department found that the syndicate sabotaged the system for between six months and two years by leaking data including using certain code numbers for the abuse. (*Borneo Post*)

Malta – Egyptian man, arrested at airport with €20,000 in cash, denied bail

An Egyptian fisherman, arrested at the airport May 17 for not declaring the €20,000 he had been flying home with, has been remanded in custody. Khamis Mohamed Elghaly Fahmy, 40, from Damietta, Egypt was arrested at the MIA departure lounge airport after checking in his baggage and passing through security, while waiting to board a flight to Cairo via Istanbul.



Prosecuting Inspector William Scicluna told magistrate Monica Vella how while waiting in the departure lounge, two customs department officials had approached the Egyptian and asked him if he was planning on taking any money to Egypt. Despite Fahmy's denial, he was called into an office, where his suitcase was opened to reveal €20,000 in cash. He explained that €8000 of the €20,000 were his and that he was carrying the rest for other people.

It was suggested that the accused had been delivering the majority of the money to the families

of his fellow fishermen, allegedly a common practise amongst his fellow fishermen. He claimed not to have known about the declaration requirement.

The accused had fully cooperated with the police from the moment of his arrest after the "random cash control check" at the non-Schengen departures area, inspector Scicluna said. The €20,000 had all been in a pouch around the man's waist, he added.

"When officers had asked him how much money he was carrying with him he said €8600," said the officer. Produced by the defence, the inspector said that the accused had given the same explanation for the larger total to him.

The accused pleaded not guilty and requested bail. The court, however, after noting that the accused lacked a fixed address in Malta, held that he had insufficient ties to Malta for its reassurance and denied bail, magistrate Vella saying that he could easily find other means of travelling abroad, even without his passport. (*Malta Today*)

Malta – Jailed for using fake passport

A Libyan national has been jailed for eight months after admitting to using a fake passport while travelling from Libya to the UK through Malta.

Prosecuting officer Darren Buhagiar charged Essam Hamad Elkershine, 28, with using a fake British residency permit. The accused, Insp. Buhagiar told the court, was arrested at the airport after having arrived from Mitiga in Libya. His intention was to board another flight to Edinburgh. After consulting with a lawyer, the accused told the police he would be requesting asylum.

Insp. Buhagiar appealed for an effective prison sentence to act as a deterrent to others who use fake documents to travel to Malta and ask for asylum. Magistrate Charmaine Galea sentenced the accused to eight months imprisonment. (*Times of Malta*)

Malta – Eritrean to be repatriated after using false passport to come to Malta from Sicily

Two Eritrean men ended up in court May 30, accused of using false passports to enter Malta via Sicily. Tesfay Gebrebirhan Anda, 29, pleaded guilty to the charges while Mhretab Zeru, 22, pleaded not guilty, protesting that he was not aware that the passport was false.

Mr Anda was sentenced to one year imprisonment suspended for three years. Prosecuting officer Frankie Sammut assured Magistrate Doreen Clarke that the Eritrean would be repatriated without delay.

Mauritius – 130 baby tortoises seized at SSR International Airport

130 baby tortoises coming from Madagascar have been seized at the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport by officers of Airports of Mauritius (AML). This was discovered when the luggage of an individual travelling from Madagascar was scanned.

When the officers of AML found the turtles, they informed the police and customs officers. The services of veterinarians were also sought to determine the species of the animals. An *objection to departure* has been issued against the person in question; however, the latter denies ownership of the luggage.

Nepal – Singaporean held with 3 kg gold at TIA

A Singaporean man was arrested with three kilograms gold at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu on May 24. The gold was concealed inside a microwave and amplifier carried by Marugain Selbham. He came to Kathmandu by a Malindo Air flight that landed at TIA at around 8:30 pm May 24.

"Customs officials found 37 pieces of gold weighing three kg hidden inside electrical appliances during a regular security check," said customs official Tulasi Chaulagain. Foreigners are allowed to carry only 50 grams of gold in Nepal. "It is illegal to carry more than that amount," said Chaulagain. (*Kathmandu Post*)

New Zealand – Man brings live Siamese fighting fish into New Zealand

A passenger from Vietnam arrived in New Zealand with live Siamese fighting fish. The five fish in plastic bags were seized at Auckland Airport by biosecurity staff after the man declared "wet fish" on arrival forms.



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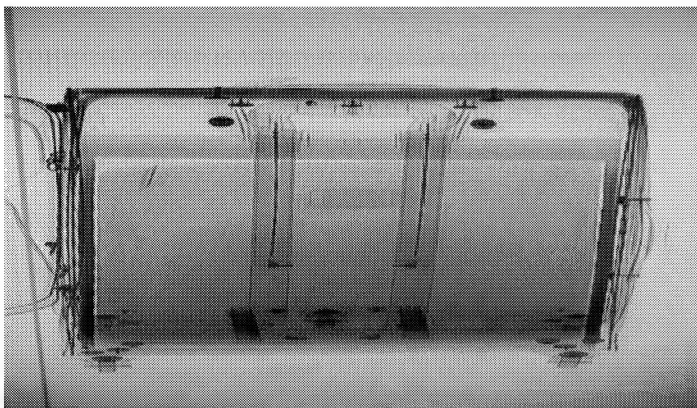


"The traveller's English wasn't very fluent and we initially thought he was carrying frozen or dried fish," said David Sims, Ministry of primary Industries manager, Auckland Airport. "It was a surprise when he pulled out the plastic bags." The fish were "humanely euthanized", MPI said.

"We're pleased the passenger knew to declare the fish," Mr Sims said. "They came from an unknown source so may have been carrying diseases that could devastate local freshwater fish populations."

New Zealand – \$20 million meth seizure at Auckland Airport

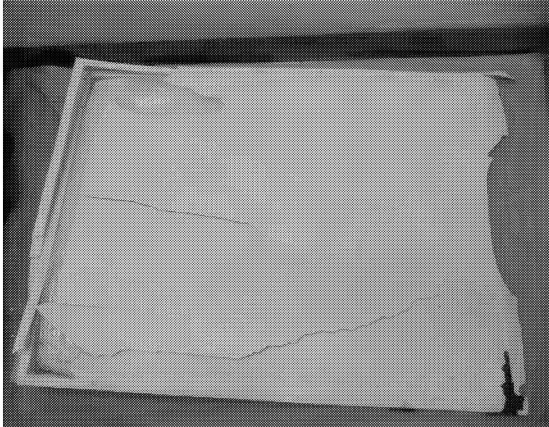
Customs has arrested two Czech Republic nationals at Auckland Airport for attempting to smuggle about 20 kilograms of methamphetamine or 'P' with an estimated street value of around \$20 million.



They arrived on a flight from Bangkok May 12, and were identified and questioned by Customs officers. A luggage examination revealed the meth hidden within a concealment at the bottom of their two suitcases.

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Both are currently in custody and will appear in the Manukau District Court charged with importing a class A controlled drug.

New Zealand – Customs takes up the Running Man Challenge

Customs staff at the Air Cargo Inspections Facility, International Mail Centre, Sea Cargo Inspections Facility, and Auckland Airport have joined in on the current 'Running Man Challenge' social media craze.



The trend was first started on the NZ Police Recruitment Facebook page, where officers uploaded a video of themselves doing the Running Man dance to a popular 90s song by Ghost Town DJs. They then challenged Australian Police to respond.

Since then, many other agencies have jumped on board like NZ Fire Service, Air New Zealand, and St John NZ. The dance challenge has also been accepted by overseas organisations such as Finland Police, Scotland Police, NYPD, Northern Territories and Australian Federal Police.

Customs' running man challenge video response can be found on Youtube, Facebook and Twitter,

challenging other border agencies such as MPI, Immigration NZ, NZ Airports, and customs organisations worldwide to give it a go.

New Zealand – Methamphetamine worth \$2m seized at Auckland International Airport

A 60-year-old man was arrested at the Auckland International Airport after \$2m worth of P was found in his luggage. The Northland man was returning from a month-long trip to South Africa and, through intelligence-sharing with Australian authorities, was intercepted by NZ Customs. An X-ray revealed 2kg of methamphetamine hidden in the lining of his trolley bag.

The man appeared in the Manukau District Court May 23 on a charge of importing a class A controlled drug, and faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. (*The Northern Advocate*)

New Zealand – Jetstar fined for letting deportee fly

Jetstar has been fined \$12,000 for allowing a deported passenger on a flight back to New Zealand despite being told three times not to let him onboard.

Jetstar Airways was convicted and fined \$12,000 at Manukau District Court May 23 for failing to comply with the *Immigration Act* 2009. The airline entered a guilty plea at an earlier hearing. A Jetstar spokesperson said it accepted the court decision and had already made operational improvements which had reduced the number of infringements it had received.



A Chilean passenger attempted to board a Jetstar flight from Bangkok Airport in June 2014. The check-in agent typing the passenger's name into Immigration New Zealand's Advance Passenger Processing system three times and each time was given a 'do not board' directive. The agent then put in the incorrect spelling of the name in the system, which returned a directive to board without an outward ticket and he boarded the plane.

Immigration New Zealand national manager for border Senta Jehle said it was a serious issue as the passenger had been deported earlier in 2014 and banned from returning to New Zealand for five years. The passenger was made to leave the country the next day.

"An alert was in place to prevent him from travelling to New Zealand and the airline totally ignored the alert and the instruction from Immigration New Zealand," Ms Jehle said. (*The New Zealand Herald*)

Nigeria – NDLEA apprehends woman in Lagos for smuggling cocaine

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has discovered 193 wraps of cocaine inside packs of sweets at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport.

The whitish substance concealed in sweets tested positive for cocaine and weighed 3.23kg. Anti-narcotics officials discovered the drugs in the luggage of a twenty-four year-old female passenger from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. A suspected member of the drug cartel was also arrested.



NDLEA commander at the Lagos Airport, Mr. Ahmadu Garba said that the suspect was found in possession of the drug while a suspected member of the drug cartel in Lagos was successfully traced and apprehended.

Igbainoba Uche Rose, who concealed 3.23kg of cocaine inside sweets, was apprehended at the arrival hall during inward screening of passengers. A suspected member of the cartel, Ofor Kamsoschukwu Chimezie was arrested on a follow-up operation.

During interrogation, Rose said that she works as a clerical officer after her secondary school. "I work as a clerical staff after I completed my primary school because there was no money to further my studies. I have suffered hardship in life, but a man offered to assist me establish my personal business. He promised to pay me half a million Naira. This was how I got involved in this problem," Rose said.

Nigeria – China bound mother of two arrested with drugs at MMIA

Operatives of the NDLEA have arrested a mother of two, Obudike Faith Ndidiamaka, 38, with drugs at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos. Obudike was arrested during the outward screening of passengers on a Kenyan Airways flight to China. She was found with 1.155kg of cannabis hidden in melon and food stuff.

NDLEA Commander at the airport, Ahmadu Garba, said: "She was caught while travelling to China with 1.155kg of compressed cannabis. Investigation into the case is in progress and she will soon be charged to court."



The suspect said she was contracted by her social media friend to smuggle the drugs to China. Obudike said: "I am a trader. I used to travel to China to buy my goods since 2014. My WhatsApp friend asked me to buy the drug and take to China. He promised to give me a handsome reward when I get to China. Unfortunately, the drug was detected during search at the Lagos airport. I am married with two children." (*The Eagle*)

Nigeria – Cocaine: NDLEA saves 2 traffickers from death, arrests 3 others

The Chairman/Chief Executive of the NDLEA, Col. Muhammad Mustapha Abdallah, said that the Agency has saved two drug traffickers from untimely death for swallowing 137 wraps of cocaine. The duo and three other narcotic traffickers were apprehended at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport with 8.588kg of cocaine. Apart from two suspects that ingested wraps of cocaine, three others were caught with cocaine hidden in socks and chocolates.

Abdallah said that both suspects would have died as a result of complications arising from ingestion of 137 wraps of substances that tested positive for cocaine. According to the NDLEA boss, "two passengers from Sao Paulo, Brazil enroute Dubai have been saved from premature death by the prompt intervention of narcotic officers. The suspects were in critical health condition on arrival at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport due to drug ingestion. They were immediately rushed to the hospital for intensive medical care. All 137 wraps of cocaine ingested by the suspects have been successfully evacuated from their system and they are now in stable condition".



NDLEA commander Hamisu Lawan said that all five suspects were arrested while attempting to smuggle drugs into the country from Brazil and United Arab Emirates. "The two suspects that escaped death are Ogbobe James Chidiebere, 33, who ingested 62 wraps of cocaine weighing 1.131kg and Okonkwo Ernest Nonye, 33, who ingested 75 wraps of cocaine weighing 1.375kg. Three other suspects

are Okanimeh Chinedu Niclopez, 33, arrested with duty free bag stocked with 3.3kg of cocaine hidden in chocolates; Obeche Ignatius Emeka, 29, and Ikeaba chidi Anthony, 31, caught with 1kg and 1.782kg of cocaine hidden inside socks," Hamisu stated.

Ogbobe James Chidiebere and Okonkwo Ernest Nonye were thankful to the NDLEA for saving their lives. In the words of Ogbobe, "I thank the NDLEA for taking us to the hospital on time. I know that I made a mistake but I never knew that it could lead to my death. Even though, they will take me to court, I still thank God that I am alive. This has taught me a bitter lesson". All the suspects will soon be charged to court.

Northern Mariana Islands – Japan-bound passenger concealed \$40,000 cash in luggage

Federal agents arrested a Japan-bound passenger who carried \$40,000 cash in his luggage without declaring the currency at the Saipan International Airport. Tsunemasa Otsuji was served with an arrest warrant after the Department of Homeland Security filed a criminal complaint charging him with one count of bulk cash smuggling.



DHS Homeland Security Investigations special agent Everette Route stated in an affidavit that on May 16 he received a call from supervisory U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer Mark Layman about Otsuji, who during a screening process had been flagged with carrying undeclared currency possibly over \$10,000.

Otsuji was scheduled to depart from the Francisco C. Palacios-Saipan International Airport May 16 at 4:30pm aboard Delta Airlines flight #297, and fly directly to Narita, Japan.

Route said at 3pm he along with another HSI Task Force officer met with a CBP officer at the Saipan International Airport and was briefed on the outbound currency enforcement operation initiated by CBP officials. Route said the intent of this operation was to inform passengers on Delta Flight 297 about the currency reporting laws of the U.S. such as the requirement to report any amount of \$10,000 and over when traveling out of or into the U.S.

Route said according to CBPO Trisha Aguon, who was leading the outbound currency enforcement operation, she provided Otsuji along with other passengers on Delta flight 297 declaration forms written in the Japanese language explaining the requirement to declare any amount of currency exceeding \$10,000.

A Delta Airlines employee accompanying Aguon also translated in the Japanese language the need for all passengers to read the form carefully and to declare any currency over \$10,000. Aguon stated that at 3:20pm, Otsuji declared \$0 currency and signed the declaration form.

At 3:50pm, Otsuji began to board Delta flight 297. After five minutes, he was escorted out of the tarmac by Aguon and escorted to an interview room at the airport. Otsuji's checked in golf bag was brought to the interview room by a Transportation Security Administration personnel. Route said Otsuji consented for Aguon to search his golf bag.

Route said Aguon found eight 100 bundles of \$50 bills equaling \$5,000 each and totaling \$40,000. The money was wrapped inside four pamphlets inside the golf bag. Route said according to Otsuji the money was given to him by a certain Yamaguchi, who allegedly owns a construction and real estate company in Japan. Route said Otsuji claimed that Yamaguchi asked him to carry the money back to Japan for him.

Otsuji stated that Yamaguchi was also traveling back to Japan on the same flight with him and that he did not know why he did not carry the money himself. He said Yamaguchi asked him to carry the money and give it back to him when they got to Japan.

Otsuji stated he did not know he had to declare the money on Saipan, but that he would declare the amount in Japan. Route said asked why he put \$0 in the form, Otsuji explained he did not read the form carefully.

Northern Mariana Islands – Tourist arrested for possession of 39 stolen credit cards

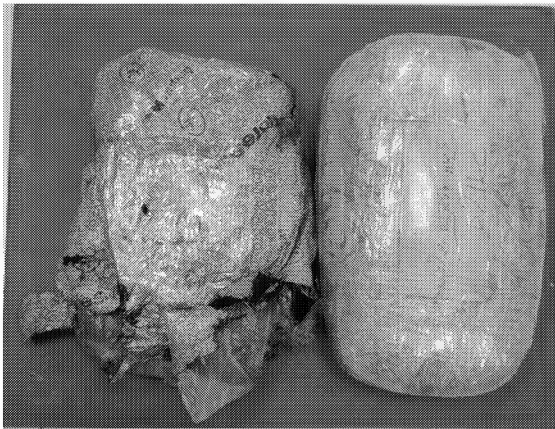
A 27-year-old tourist was arrested at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport in the early morning of May 15 after he was found to be in possession of 39 different commercial cards belonging to other people.

During a bail hearing on May 20, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho retained the \$30,000 cash bail originally recommended for the temporary release of Binbin Zhang. Zhang is facing charges of "attempts to and misuse of credit cards and issuance of bad checks and possession of forged writing or a forgery device."

CNMI Customs Inspector Michael N. Pangelinan stated in his affidavit that Zhang Binbin arrived with his girlfriend Li Baoping at the Saipan airport at 3:05 a.m. on May 15. During a routine inspection, Customs inspectors discovered 39 commercial cards in Zhang's card organizer. Pangelinan said most of the credit cards in Zhang's possession were issued to other Chinese individuals while other credit cards had no names.

He said the commercial cards were credit cards and debit cards from multiple banks, company-specific shopping cards and other cards that appeared to be for the purpose of making purchases.

According to Zhang, he intended to stay on Saipan for four days, from May 14 to 19. Zhang also said he had authorization to possess each card for the purpose of shopping for friends, but when Pangelinan asked him for any documentation to prove it, Zhang did not have any. (*Guam Daily Post*)



Oman – Asian woman among three arrested for attempting to smuggle marijuana

Omani Customs officials foiled an attempt to smuggle over 3 kilogrammes of marijuana through Muscat International Airport.

The customs officials arrested an Asian woman on her arrival at the airport and seized the stash of drugs. Police also apprehended two compatriots who were waiting for her at the airport. The traffickers were referred to the anti-narcotics general directorate for investigation.

Pakistan – Smuggled cell phones seized

Pakistan Customs staff deputed at Jinnah International Airport Karachi has recovered some 198 smuggled cell phones worth of Rs 2 million (\$24,980) from a passenger.

According to reports, on a tip off, Deputy Collector Amjad Aman Leghari along with the Customs staff intercepted a passenger Muhammad Hanif who landed at the airport from Emirates Airline from Dubai. During checking, the staff recovered some 198 mobile phones from the custody of the passenger. The authorities arrested the passenger while further investigation is underway. (*Daily Times*)

Pakistan – PIA crew discovers 27kg heroin in airplane's toilet at Karachi airport

Pakistan International Airline's maintenance staff discovered 27 kilograms of smuggled heroin in the toilet of an on board airplane.

During routine maintenance, staff discovered heroin that was concealed in urinal panels. The airplane had arrived Karachi on May 24 from Lahore and was set to fly towards Europe. Spokesperson of PIA told that he had zero acknowledgements about the schedule of flight. He said, "The aircraft was scheduled to go for maintenance, and was not scheduled to fly."

An investigation has begun to arrest the smugglers while Customs officials and Anti-Narcotics Force officials seized the drugs at Karachi airport. (*Daily Times*)

Philippines – Dubai-bound passenger held after 'invisibility' amulet fails

Desperate times call for desperate measures. However, the same desperation can land you in trouble like the 25-year-old Filipina who was desperate to work in Dubai, has experienced. The woman was intercepted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 after an amulet that would supposedly make her 'invisible' to immigration agents 'failed to work'.

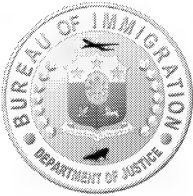
The NAIA Task Force against Trafficking in Persons (NAIA-TFATP) reportedly said that there was possibility of the illegal recruiter who victimized the caregiver from Batangas to be in connivance with an airport insider.

According to the task force, the victim was instructed by the recruiter to avoid going through immigration, making them believe that the airport insider may be waiting behind the counters, ready to affix Bureau of Immigration Border stamps on the victim's passport.



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A report from the NAIA-TFATP pointed out that the Dubai-bound caregiver who posed as a tourist was intercepted at 2 p.m. on May 20 after she was caught trying to skip the immigration counter at the airport. It was her third attempt to leave the country.

Before she was apprehended, she tried to leave on May 17 and 19 through NAIA. On her first attempt, she told immigration officers she was a tourist whose trip to Dubai was sponsored by an uncle. She was not allowed to leave after she failed to show documents proving her claim.

The second time, on May 19, she tried to skip the immigration counters. When caught, she tried to mislead authorities, saying her supposed uncle had instructed her not to undergo immigration inspection.

Upon questioning the passenger admitted desperation had pushed her to answer a wanted ad for overseas workers posted on Facebook. According to her, she was offered work in Dubai as a caregiver with free board and lodging plus a monthly salary of Dh2,500, the report said. (*The Filipino Times*)

Qatar – Two men jailed for life for smuggling marijuana

Two drug traffickers have been sentenced to life for attempting to smuggle a big quantity of marijuana into Qatari territories. The Criminal Court in Doha fined the convicts each SR300,000 in addition to SR1,000 as customs fines. They will also be deported immediately on serving their jail term, the court ruled.



الهيئة العامة
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الجمهورية
General Authority of Customs

The Public Prosecution had charged them with drug trafficking and referred them to the Criminal Court to stand trial.

A customs officer became suspicious when he noticed that he was anxious and shivered as he was submitting his passport. They scanned his luggage and found more than 3 kilogrammes of marijuana. An interrogation led customs officers to nab his compatriot who was waiting for two bags, containing the marijuana.

The two convicts claimed that they were unaware about the content in the bag and that a compatriot in their country of origin gave them the bags saying a man would collect it from the airport in Doha.

Qatar – Marijuana mixed with sweets seized at Doha Airport



An Asian expatriate failed in his attempt to smuggle marijuana and opium through Hamad International Airport.

Customs officers screened two cans of food found in his luggage and discovered that the smuggler had mixed 332 grams of marijuana with the sweets from his country of origin.

The vigilant officers also searched his hand baggage and seized 7.6 grams of pure opium. The trafficker was referred to the anti-narcotics department at the Ministry of Interior.

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Qatar – HIA customs inspectors foil drug smuggling attempt

The General Authority of Customs at Hamad International Airport succeeded in confiscating 3.277 kg of marijuana inside a passenger's bag.

The seizure was foiled by a customs inspector, who discovered the marijuana in the passenger's bag wrapped in carbon paper.

Ahmed bin Ali Al Mohannadi, chairman of the General Authority of Customs, honored the inspector who was responsible for this seizure, and he said that this came in light of the Authority's efforts to detect the drug. (*The Peninsula*)

Romania – 10,000 smuggled cigarettes seized by customs inspectors at Otopeni Airport



On May 4, customs inspectors at the Otopeni Airport, following an action undertaken to combat trafficking of cigarettes, seized 10,000 "LD Red" brand cigarettes from a passenger who traveled on the Doha-Istanbul-Otopeni route.

The person committing the offense was sanctioned in accordance with art. 653 par. (2) of the Regulations of the Customs Code of Romania.

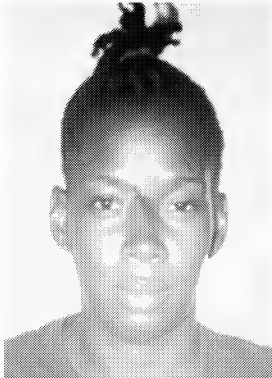
St. Kitts and Nevis – Pia Nisbett charged with airport drug bust

Pia Nisbett has been formally charged for the quantity of cocaine which was found and seized at the airport some nights ago. The woman, whom a police press release informed is of Spooner's Village, Cayon, was charged with cocaine possession, importation of cocaine and possession of cocaine with intent to sell.



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Three charges were also preferred against her by Her Majesty's Customs and Excise Department for possession of a concealed good – cocaine, signing a false declaration and making a false statement or declaration.

The charges stem from an intelligence-led operation which took place on May 1 at the Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport, where three women, who returned to the Federation from Antigua, and their luggage were searched.

A quantity of white, powdery substance suspected to be cocaine was found on one of the women's person. Consequently, she was taken into custody and the police subsequently confirmed that the substance was cocaine, weighing .25 kilograms with a street value of just under \$23,000.

The abovementioned charges were brought against Nisbett and she remains in custody.

Saudi Arabia – Two caught with heroin at Riyadh airport

Customs officials at King Khaled International Airport foiled attempts to smuggle in heroin into the Kingdom. In separate incidents, two smugglers were caught with a total of 1.288 kilograms of heroin in their intestines.



Sultan Al-Fuhaid, director general of Customs at the airport, said that Customs officials found the two men, who arrived in the Kingdom on two different planes, in suspicious circumstances, and when their stomachs were subjected to ultrasound scanning, it was revealed that they were carrying drug pills. They had ingested the pills before making the trip to Riyadh.

The first man was caught smuggling 100 capsules of heroin with a weight of 811.5 grams while the second smuggler was carrying 477 grams of heroin. The smugglers were handed over to the concerned authorities to complete the legal procedures.

It is noteworthy that there were certain cases in which smugglers misused even the pilgrimage to smuggle in drugs into the Kingdom. Two months ago, customs officials at Halat Ammar check post on the border of Jordan, foiled an attempt to smuggle in 112,000 Captagon pills by a family of six

coming to the Kingdom to perform Umrah. Three women pilgrims were caught with 53,000 drug pills hidden in their dresses while a total of 59,000 pills were found in the possession of three men. (*Saudi Gazette*)

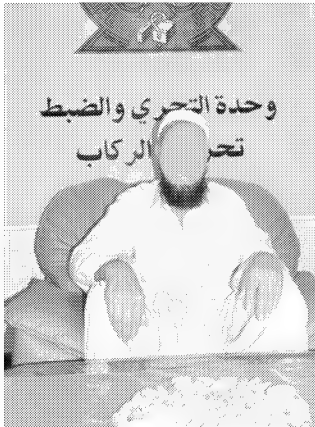
Saudi Arabia – 4.6 kilos of heroin seized at Jeddah airport

Customs officials at King Abdulaziz International Airport foiled attempts to smuggle in a huge cache of heroin into



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the Kingdom. In separate incidents, three smugglers were caught with a total of 4.643 kilograms of heroin.

Two smugglers attempted to smuggle in heroin in their intestines, while the third inside his baggage. Abdullah Al-Filay, director general of Customs at the airport, said that Customs officials found a man, who arrived in the Kingdom on board a plane, in suspicious circumstances, and when his stomach was subjected to ultrasound scanning, it was revealed that he was carrying 85 capsules with 618 grams of heroin after swallowing them.

The second smuggler was arrested in similar circumstances after discovering that he was carrying capsules weighing 523 grams of heroin in his intestine. About 3.5 kilograms of heroin was seized from the baggage of a third smuggler, Al-Filay said adding that the Customs officials are exerting all out efforts to prevent smuggling of drugs into the Kingdom.



Saudi Arabia – Drug bust at Taif airport

Taif Airport Customs have foiled an attempt to smuggle 50,669 Captagon (Amphetamine) narcotic pills.

Customs officers found the drugs with a passenger who arrived at the airport, Saudi Press Agency reported on May 14.

Director of Customs at Taif airport Ahmed Al-Shuwaiman said the amphetamine tablets were found during routine inspection of the baggage.

The drugs were hidden in special pockets at the bottom of two bags. (*Saudi Gazette*)

Sharjah, UAE – Women on trial for smuggling drugs under their corsets

Four women have gone on trial accused of smuggling drugs into the country under their corsets. They were arrested at Sharjah Airport, on suspicion of concealing plastic strips of tramadol pills wrapped in plastic bags around their bodies, under their corsets, Sharjah Court of First Instance heard.



Prosecutors said the four women, all in their 40s, from Pakistan, were arrested at the airport on February 29, when customs inspectors noticed them acting suspiciously. The court was told customs officials had observed that all four women were showing signs of discomfort and exhibiting signs of suspicious behaviour. Upon searching them, they found 3,600 tramadol tablets.

"We are innocent. We were not aware that the strips were prohibited drugs," said one of the women, speaking on behalf of the entire group of four. The woman told the court that they

thought the drugs they had tried to smuggle into the country were "merely medicine". Prosecutors asked why they had gone to such lengths to hide drugs they thought were legal.

According to official records, a Sharjah Customs inspector suspected the defendants of foul play and asked to search them. The records said the female inspector discovered the hidden drugs during the search.

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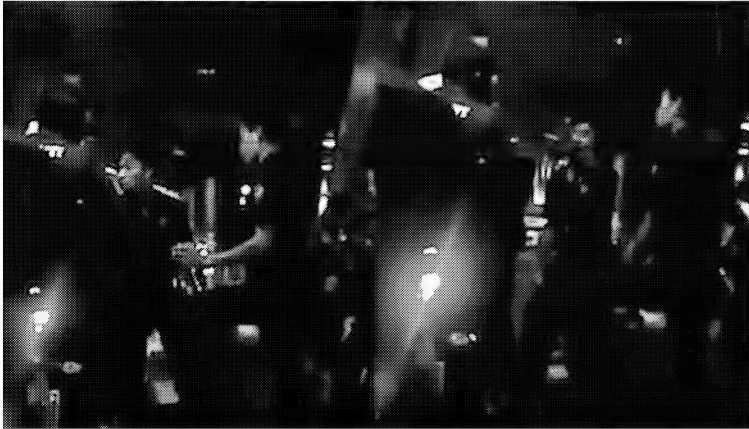
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They had arrived in the UAE on a flight from Pakistan. The defendants claimed that a Pakistani man gave them the drugs and told them to call another man when they got to Sharjah, who was supposed to meet with them to take the drugs. All four of the suspects denied the charges of smuggling drugs into the emirate of Sharjah.

The judge refused to set the defendants free on bail. A verdict will be issued in June. (7 Days)

Singapore – Video of S'pore officer lashing out at M'sian goes viral

A video showing a Singaporean immigration officer shouting at a Malaysian motorcyclist at the immigration checkpoint is making the rounds over social media, prompting a heated debate among netizens.



The video showed a Singaporean officer screaming at a Malaysian who had allegedly thrown his passport at him.

"Why did you throw (the passport) at me for? I don't want to open (the gate).

"You apologise first!" he screamed.

Despite other riders trying to calm things down by talking to the officer, they were also scolded. The heated argument caused traffic to come to a temporary standstill.

The video has gone viral, receiving almost 3,000 shares and 847 "likes" on Facebook.

Some Facebook users defended the officer's action, saying that working at an immigration checkpoint was a tough job, as many tourists often vented their frustrations at the officers.

"Clearing bikes and cars ain't a joke. You get cursed and spat on by the crowd. It's hard to keep your cool," Ek Seng Ng commented.

"Give them respect. Just because they are wearing a uniform, it doesn't mean that they are our servants," Ranjit Dhillon Kaur commented.

Another user, Shah Ismail, said: "It's a tough job. People are always misunderstood during scenarios like this."

Slovakia – Customs officers shoot asylum seeker in Slovakia

Slovak customs officers shot an asylum seeker shortly after midnight on May 9 when they opened fire at a car that they suspected was carrying migrants and trying to escape a patrol, Slovak customs said.



The customs officers wanted to halt and check four vehicles coming from Hungary near the village of Velky Meder, the customs authority said in a release. The officers suspected the cars, which were some 10 kilometers into Slovakia, carried refugees. Three cars stopped but the fourth, driven by a suspected people smuggler, tried to escape with a sudden maneuver that risked it would hit three customs officers, according to the release.

The customs officers first fired warnings shots, then shot repeatedly at the rear tires of the car, which stopped after 400 meters. They injured one passenger, who received first aid. The injured woman was shot in the back and the bullet was successfully removed, Slovak customs said. The customs officers handed the people over to the border police, the release said.

The injured person was a woman around 26 years of age from Syria. She was in a stable condition following surgery at a hospital at Dunajska Streda. The detainees were handed over to the National Unit for Combating Illegal Migration. (*The Wall Street Journal*)

South Africa – Another drug mule busted at CT airport

Cape Town police believe that a syndicate is behind the smuggling of cocaine disguised as chocolates into the city following the arrest of another female drug smuggler on May 4.



The 40-year-old Johannesburg woman was found to be in possession of 3kg of cocaine. She was arrested at the Cape Town International Airport following her arrival from the Middle East on May 4.



On May 3, police arrested another female drug smuggler after SARS customs officials found cocaine hidden in chocolate containers in her luggage. On May 2 another two suspects were arrested at the airport. They were found to be in possession of 3.8kg of the drug.

“We have reason to believe that the suspects are linked to the same syndicate using the same method of poorly concealing the contraband in chocolate packaging,” police spokesperson Andre Traut said.

South Africa – Four female Brazilian body packers found with cocaine

SARS Customs officials intercepted four Brazilian women in possession of 8.5kg cocaine at the Cape Town International Airport on May 9 at 11: 40am.

The incident happened when customs officials stopped the women to inspect the hand luggage of the travellers and conduct body searches. Officials found three packages wrapped in brown paper and plastic on each woman's body. The women were taken in for questioning and tests confirmed the white substance to be cocaine.

The four women, one male travelling with them and narcotics were handed over to the South African Police Service for further investigation.

South Africa – Lone traveller nabbed with 20 gold bars worth R7-million

SARS Customs officials intercepted a Lebanese male passenger en route to Dubai carrying 17 rectangular gold bars and three circular bars weighing 23kg worth more than R7-million at OR Tambo International Airport May 15.



The lone traveller was leaving the country without proper documentation. His luggage was scanned and irregular images were identified and a hand search found these to be gold bars estimated at R7,033,600. The traveller produced self-generated invoices.

The suspect has been handed over to the SAPS but SARS Customs has detained the goods for further investigations.

South Africa – Sao Paulo man found with R2.3-million cocaine

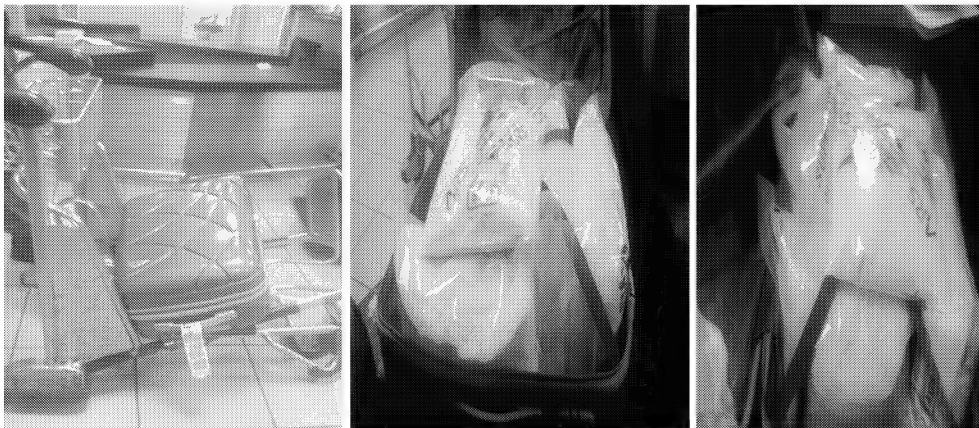
A male passenger from Sao Paulo was intercepted carrying 8.4kg of cocaine at the OR Tambo International Airport May 19. The man was on his way to Mozambique.

His checked-in black bag was scanned and showed concealed two backpacks with suspicious looking white substance that turned out to be cocaine.

The man and his bags were handed over to the South African Police Service for further investigation and prosecution.

South Africa – Unclaimed bag with R8-million crystal meth

SARS Customs officials intercepted an unaccompanied bag from India with 5 plastic bags of crystal meth valued at R8.1-million at the OR Tambo International Airport on May 20.



The bag was from Chennai India travelling via Abu Dhabi was scanned and revealed a suspicious sugar-like substance that was confirmed to be crystal meth.

No one has come forward to claim the bag. The narcotics have been handed over to the South African Police Service for further investigation.

South Africa – Man arrested for unclaimed bag with R6-million ephedrine

SARS Customs officials intercepted a man that claimed an unaccompanied bag containing 20kg of ephedrine valued at R6-million at the OR Tambo International Airport May 25.

The interception followed collaborative efforts between SARS, airline officials and SAPS. The bag from Dar es Salaam was scanned and found to contain four 5kg bags of a crystal-like substance that tested positively for ephedrine, a principal ingredient of crystal methamphetamine.

The man approached Customs to claim the bag. Immediately after signing for delivery he was arrested by SAPS officers to be charged for drug possession.

South Africa – Crystal meth worth R7.5 million intercepted at OR Tambo

SARS Customs officials intercepted 25kg of crystal methamphetamine valued at R7,5 Million at OR International Airport May 27.

The bust was made during an inspection of a flight from Cotonou (Benin, West Africa). All unaccompanied bags were escorted to the SARS Customs search area for scanning where 25 plastic bags containing a white substance was found in one of the bags.

The substance tested positive for crystal methamphetamine, weighing 25.2 kg.

South Africa – Woman busted for R2.1-million cocaine

SARS Customs officials intercepted a woman from Sao Paulo carrying 7kg of cocaine valued at R2.1-million at OR Tambo International Airport May 28.

The woman was stopped for routine check where her two bags and back pack were searched and scanned. Her back pack had a special compartment with white power that tested positive for cocaine.

South Sudan – Blood ivory seized at Juba International Airport

Information was received from the South Sudan capital Juba that security services at the international airport have arrested an SPLA soldier who carried 8 elephant tusks.

The suspect confesses that he had bought the blood ivory from other government soldiers, trying to make a living after not receiving any salary for several months. He named a Sudanese man from Darfur as his buyer and was enroute to the town of Renk to meet him when he was arrested.

Sri Lanka – Cigarettes worth Rs.4.6 million seized at BIA

Customs officers at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) detected 663 cartons of cigarettes worth Rs.4.6 million (\$40,700) that four passengers were trying to smuggle into the country.



Director of Customs and Customs Media Spokesperson Dharmasena Kahandawa said the four suspects, all residents of Matale, had arrived in the country on a flight from Doha May 5.

The cigarettes were forfeited after the Customs inquiry and the suspects were released after being imposed a penalty of Rs.150,000 (\$1330). (*Sunday Times*)

Sri Lanka – Katunayake airport Customs seizes gold worth over Rs. 50m

Customs officers at the Katunayake International Airport seized ten kilogrammes of gold worth over Rs.50 million (\$443,000) which was in the possession of three women who arrived in the country.

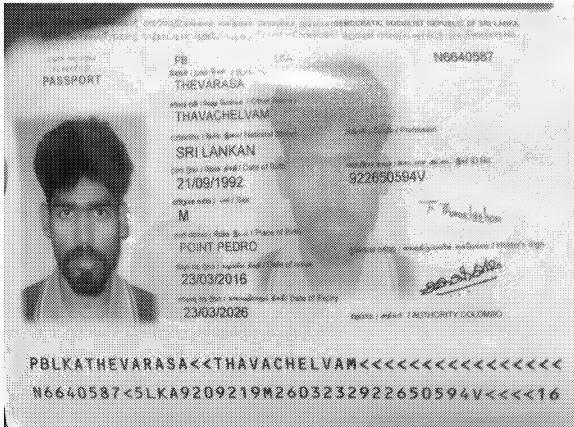
The three women arrived in the country from Dubai around 8.30 on May 23. According to the customs officials two of the women arrived at the airport on a wheelchair to evade standard checking procedures.

The woman behind the two women on wheelchairs was in possession of the gold. The suspects were between 40 and 50 years of age.

Taiwan – Sri Lanka man nabbed for using a fake ID in Taiwan

A Sri Lanka national has been caught attempting to travel to **Canada** via Taiwan using fake Canadian identification cards, the National Immigration Agency (NIA) said May 10.

The 24-year-old man was discovered by immigrant agents at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport late May 9 to be holding a fake Canadian permanent resident card when he was waiting for a transit flight to Toronto, the agency said. A fake Canadian citizenship card, health card and driver's license were seized from his luggage after a search, according to the NIA.



When questioned by the immigration agents, the man said he was a truck driver in Sri Lanka and was planning to work in Canada, where the pay is much better. He disclosed that a human trafficking ring had helped him arrange the trip for a price equivalent to about NT\$120,000 (US\$3,690). He had made a transit stop in Singapore before arriving in Taiwan.

The man was repatriated back to Sri Lanka after questioning, the NIA said. (*The China Post*)

Taiwan – Over 14 million Japanese yen confiscated at Taoyuan airport

A group of five foreign nationals had 14.58 million Japanese yen (US\$134,155) confiscated at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport May 13 after customs officers seized an undeclared total of 20 million yen in cash in their



luggage, according to airport police.

A Chinese man surnamed Lin, 45, and two Japanese women aged 52 and 59, were found to have hidden 6 million, 4 million and 6 million yen, respectively, in their carry-on luggage when going through X-ray security checks at the airport's Terminal One, according to airport police. Police then found two other Japanese men traveling with them, and an additional 4 million yen was detected in one of the two men's luggage.

Lin told police that they planned to carry the money to Okinawa, where they wanted to purchase land.

US\$10,000 was given back to each of the five foreign nationals, and the rest of the 20 million yen was confiscated.

Taiwan – Sri Lankan man with counterfeit passport deported from Taiwan

Taiwan deported a man from Sri Lanka back to his home country on May 22 after finding he was trying to transit to New Zealand through Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport using a counterfeit Singapore passport.



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According to the National Immigration Agency (NIA), officers of the agency's Special Duty Brigade stopped the man for questioning at the airport May 21 after noticing him acting strangely. As the traveler was being questioned, his Singapore passport was found to be counterfeit, the agency said.

The man said he was a cook in Sri Lanka and was able to barely support himself with what he made. To escape his predicament, he arranged for a human smuggling organization to help him settle overseas, the man said, according to the NIA.

The syndicate suggested he try making his way to New Zealand because popular underground routes to Europe, the United States and **Canada** have been closely watched by local immigration authorities in recent years, the man said.

He purchased a counterfeit Singapore passport for US\$1,000 and first traveled to Malaysia before flying to Taiwan, where he hoped to transit to New Zealand, the NIA said. During questioning, the brigade found the man also had a counterfeit Singapore ID and driving license, the NIA said.

The man was deported back to Sri Lanka on May 22 at the instruction of the Taoyuan District Prosecutors Office.

Thailand – Teenagers busted at Phuket Airport with drugs in bra, handbag

Two teenage girls were busted for trying to smuggle narcotics through Phuket International Airport on May 9, in a joint raid by the Border Patrol Police (BPP) and Phuket Immigration Police. The girls, aged 16 and 19, flew in from Bangkok at about 4:30pm, confirmed Lt Amphol Samothai of the BPP.



"We found 1,500 pills of methamphetamine (ya bah) in one of the girls' handbags, while the other had 95.5g of crystal methamphetamine (ya ice) hidden in her bra," said Lt Amphol.

Police said they were tipped off about the drug delivery, a description of one of the girls, and their arrival time and date by undercover police. "When we asked to check their bags, they panicked and began to act suspicious," said Lt Amphol.

Both girls confessed and were charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell. They were then taken to Tah Chat Chai Police Station for further questioning. (*Phuket Gazette*)

Thailand – Thai immigration nabs Sri Lankan with Malaysian passport

Thai Immigration Bureau detained a Sri Lankan man at the Chiangmai Airport for possession of a forged Malaysian passport.

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In a statement, the bureau said the 22-year-old suspect was nabbed by immigration enforcement officers at 5pm on May 14, before he could board a flight to Hong Kong and then to Zurich.

"Based on investigations, we found that the man's passport originally belonged to a Malaysian woman," it said, adding that the authorities would conduct further investigations if the case involved a member of a fake passport syndicate. (*The Star*)

Thailand – Egyptian caught with B15m of cocaine

An Egyptian man has been arrested at Suvarnabhumi Airport for smuggling cocaine with a street value of more than 15 million baht.



Director-general of the Customs Department Kulit Sombatsiri said the suspect, Anwar Mohamed Anwar Warby, arrived on an Emirates Airline flight from Dubai at 1am May 18. The department's anti-narcotics unit suspected Mr Warby of being a hired drug mule based on information obtained from two previous drug arrests in April.

Officials searched his backpack and discovered 293 pellets of cocaine wrapped in transparent duct tape and sweets wrappers inside five sweets bags.

Mr Warby confessed that he had been hired by an Egyptian woman for US\$1,000 to deliver the drug from Dubai airport to an unidentified person at Gate three, on the second floor of Suvarnabhumi's main terminal.

Mr Kulit said the suspect had entered Thailand through Suvarnabhumi on May 11 to scout the location.

Thailand – Chinese man arrested at Suvarnabhumi with fake passport he bought on internet for \$6,000

A Chinese man was stopped trying to leave Thailand May 25 with a fake passport he said he had bought on the internet for \$6,000 US dollars.



The passport that had the man's details overlaid on the original ones was in fact a passport of a Malaysian woman reported stolen some time ago.

Wang Jinghua, from China was on his way to Tokyo when Suvarnabhumi immigration officials spotted irregularities with his passport. Use of a magnifying glass showed there was blurring so it was checked on a VSC 6000 machine that showed the new details had been overlaid on the original information. Apart from that there was also suspect inkjet printing.

It was discovered to be a passport belonging to a Malaysian woman who had reported it missing. The Chinese man told immigration that he had been in Thailand since 2013. He entered illegally via Mae Sai and had no passport. He paid an internet company money for the passport.

He was charged with attempting to use a fake passport and illegal entry into the kingdom and detained for processing.

Ukraine – Fugitive Ukrainian businessman detained at Kyiv airport

A deputy director of a Ukrainian food company, who was hiding from justice for six years, was detained by Ukraine's Security Service (SBU) and customs officers at international airport Boryspil, near Kyiv, on May 30. The man is suspected of embezzling more than USD 20 million of Ukraine's State Agency reserve in 2008-2010.



When inspecting his activities (six years), law enforcement officers found evidence of an abuse of replenishing food reserve. The criminal proceedings were launched against the man. To avoid liability, the businessman went beyond Ukraine and had been hiding in South America for six years.

The Ukrainian court chose detention or USD 2 million bail (UAH 50 million) as a preventive measure for the deputy director. The pre-trial investigation is under way. (*Ukraine Today*)

Ukraine – French national arrested in Ukraine over Euro 2016 attack plans

Authorities in Ukraine say they have arrested a French citizen who had been planning to attack the upcoming football European Championships in France. Ukraine's border guard service says the man had amassed an arsenal of weapons, including rocket launchers and machine guns.



The Ukrainian state security service revealed they had been watching the suspect since December last year, when he arrived in Ukraine under the pretence of providing aid. The 25 year-old man was taken into custody on the border with Poland in late May.

Head of the intelligence agency, the SBU, Vasily Hrytsak, says the man had been planning to target religious and administrative buildings during the Euro 2016 football tournament. "The targets of the attack were - although it sounds strange, it is true, and it was documented - a Muslim mosque, a Jewish synagogue, a French tax office, highway patrol points and many other places. As I said, 15 terrorist attacks were planned."



Ukrainian authorities say the man claimed the plot was a protest against France's immigration policy, the spread of Islam and globalisation.

Among the weapons he had secured were five Kalashnikov assault rifles, more than 500 rounds of ammunition, and 125 kilograms of explosives. The SBU says they made sure the man only got hold of deactivated weapons.

United Kingdom – British holidaymaker flies from Portugal to Liverpool using his BROTHER’S passport and clears airport security on both sides

A holidaymaker flew home from Portugal to Liverpool on his brother’s passport, despite high terrorism threat levels across Europe

Steven Wilson, 40, from Crosby, Merseyside, went to Lisbon on a golfing holiday with friends including his 43-year-old brother Carl. But when he left their shared hotel room to fly home with easyJet on April 30, Steven accidentally picked up Carl’s passport. He somehow managed to get through four checkpoints without him or anyone else noticing the error, despite the fact the passport bore a different name to his boarding card.



His wife Michelle, 38, said it raised serious questions at a time when the UK threat level for terrorism is classified as ‘severe’ - meaning an attack is ‘highly likely’.

She said: ‘My husband only realised when he arrived home and I took the passport off him to return it for safe keeping. In light of recent events in Paris and Belgium, I assumed airport security was a top priority within Europe. Obviously not. The names were different. Surely that should have raised some alarm bells?’

Michelle says she contacted easyJet, John Lennon Airport, UK Border Force and Portuguese immigration officials to express her concerns and urgent investigations are now said to be under way. She added: ‘I explained that I will be taking this matter further and going public with regard to the lack of security and diligence currently operating in European airports.’

‘It’s awful. It’s not just the fact his name is on the boarding card and it’s different to the one on the passport. He doesn’t even look like his brother. They look completely different. My husband was travelling on his own as well. You would have thought security would pay more attention to a lone passenger.’

John Lennon Airport said the security breach was a matter for the UK Border Force which checks passenger identity, along with their equivalents in Portugal. A Border Force spokesperson said they do not comment on individual cases. (*Daily Mail*)

United Kingdom – Jail for man who was stopped at Leeds Bradford Airport with stun guns disguised as police torches

A man who was stopped at Leeds Bradford Airport with stun guns disguised as police torches has been jailed for two years. Customs officers also found Angus Liggett in possession of four knives and a knuckle duster when he was stopped at the West Yorkshire airport after leaving a flight from Turkey on July 26 last year.

Leeds Crown Court heard the stun guns were black and shaped like torches and had the word ‘Police’ written on the side. Liggett was also found in possession of a knife disguised as a pen, two lock knives, a flick knife and the knuckle duster.

The court heard Liggett, 33 was travelling to Northern Ireland when he was stopped. When questioned by officers Liggett said he had bought the stun guns in Turkey but believed them to be torches.

Liggett pleaded guilty to two offences of improperly importing goods. Simon Reeve, mitigating, said Liggett had the items because he collected them. Judge Tom Bayliss, QC, said Mr Reeve: "So he was adding torches disguised as stun guns to his collection. Why would anyone want a stun gun disguised as a torch?"

Mr Reeve replied: "There is nothing about him or his lifestyle that would suggest he would use (the weapons) in any improper way. It wouldn't be the strangest thing to collect."

Judge Bayliss said: "What? That might not be in your world Mr Reeve, but in my world it is."

Mr Reeve said: "I accept that his collection is an unusual collection but at fairs up and down the country people can buy anything from a tea service to a decommissioned World War Two weapon."

Jailing Liggett, the judge said: "The motive for bringing these items in is somewhat abstract. The pre-sentence report suggests that you are a collector of knives and torches and that you bought these with the collection in mind. I am very sceptical of that, but on the other hand I can't be sure that you had these items for a criminal purpose and I do not sentence you on that basis."

"Whatever your motive for bringing these items in to the UK, one thing, I'm afraid, is clear. Those who bring weapons of this nature into the UK must be deterred and must be deterred by an immediate and substantial prison sentence." (*Wakefield Express*)

United Kingdom – Brazilian footie ace Neymar skips past England's immigration defence after forgetting his passport

Superstar footballer Neymar was let into Britain by immigration officers despite forgetting his passport. The Brazilian captain was quizzed by officials after jetting into Luton Airport on May 17. An onlooker said the £8.2million-a-year Barcelona forward told them he had to go to an important meeting.

He is understood to have had checks on his identity before being waved through. Neymar, 24, then went straight to department store Selfridges in London's Oxford Street to promote Replay jeans, for which he is an ambassador.

The onlooker said: "I think the staff at the airport were quite starstruck at seeing him. It isn't every day they come across one of the best footballers in the world. He told them he had a very important meeting, but it doesn't seem that way as he was pictured later at Selfridges."



"I do not think he should have been let in. If it was a non-celebrity who people didn't know they wouldn't even have managed to leave Spain, let alone be let in here once they're at Luton."

Neymar was looking relaxed as he waited with a pal in the VIP lounge at Luton. He was joined by rapper Professor Green and model Daisy Lowe at the jeans launch. It is believed Neymar spent just one day here as he was due back for training before Barcelona play on May 22.

Neymar showed airport staff a number of documents, but the crucial one was his Spanish residency card. A Home Office spokesman said: "In exceptional circumstances and when all checks have taken place, including to verify their identity, a non-EU national can be allowed in the UK without a passport."

Neymar's spokesman said: "Immigration verified the legality of his ID and let him go 15 minutes later."

Non-EU nationals can only enter the UK without a passport after strict checks verifying their identity. The Home Office said such individuals are scrutinised rigorously and there have to be exceptional circumstances. (*The Sun*)

United Kingdom – Jennifer Lawrence reveals she was sent to 'tiny little jail' after lying to U.K. Customs officers

The 25-year-old actress may have won an Oscar for her role in *Silver Linings Playbook*, but when it comes to having to pretend about something in her real life, she cracks. Appearing recently on *The Graham Norton Show*, Lawrence came clean about time she spent in a "tiny little jail" after lying to British customs officers.



It all happened when Lawrence was auditioning to play Mystique in 2011's *X-Men: First Class*. En route to meet with director Matthew Vaughn in London, Lawrence was instructed by colleagues to fib about the nature of her visit, as her passport was expiring within the next six months.

"They were like, 'Whatever you do, don't tell them that you're here for work, 'cause they'll ask for a work visa – say you're here for pleasure,'" Lawrence explained. "And I'm like, 'Oh, my good God ... I have to lie to a customs officer!'"

Being the actress that she is, Lawrence worked up an elaborate backstory for her "character" – telling

customs officers she was in town for her brother's wedding. "I get there and he's like, 'Business or pleasure?' 'Pleasure.' 'What are you doing for pleasure?' 'My brother's getting married.' 'Where's he getting married?' 'Wimbledon.' 'Is he American?' 'Yes,'" Lawrence lied. "Do you have an invitation?' 'No.'"

Lawrence buckled under pressure. "'Are you telling the truth?' 'No! No! I'm here for work and I don't have a work visa and my passport expires and I'm not even supposed to be here!'" she confessed to the officer. "I had to sit in a tiny little jail for like five hours while they called my employer," Lawrence explained. "I felt tiny."

United Kingdom – Drug smuggler hid 2kg of cocaine in false bottom of suitcase at Gatwick



A man who tried to smuggle more than 2kg of cocaine through Gatwick by hiding it in a false bottom in his suitcase has been jailed for six years. Hudson Prescod, 39, was sentenced at Croydon Crown Court May 23 after pleading guilty to importing a Class A drug.

Border Force officers examined Prescod's luggage after he arrived at Gatwick on April 17 on a flight from St Lucia. A sharp probe inserted into the base of his suitcase revealed a white paste substance, which later tested positive for cocaine. The Class A drug was found to be concealed within the false bottom of the suitcase.

Prescod was detained and the case was passed to the National Crime Agency's Gatwick Border Investigation Team. (*Crawley News*)

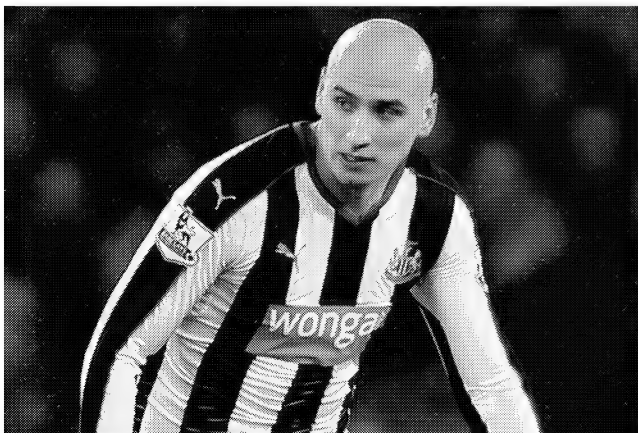
United Kingdom – £500k cocaine seized at Belfast airport

A man from the Republic of Ireland has appeared in court in connection with more than 10 kilos of cocaine seized at George Best Belfast City Airport.

The drugs, with an estimated street value in excess of £500,000, were found during Border Force checks at the airport on May 22. A man was arrested in connection and on May 24, 30-year-old Shane James Delaney, from Delouthry in Kilkenny appeared at Belfast Magistrates' Court charged with the illegal importation of a Class A drug. No further details were disclosed and he was remanded to appear by video-link May 31. (UTV)

United Kingdom – Newcastle United star interrogated by customs officials over £15,000 watch

Newcastle United footballer Jonjo Shelvey was interrogated by customs officials after failing to declare a £15,000 watch. Shelvey was stopped by Border Force officials, understood to be acting on a tip off, at Newcastle Airport



after the star walked through the 'nothing to declare' channel at security.

The £80,000-a-week midfielder - who signed for the relegated Magpies in January - was intercepted by customs officials on May 23. He was returning to Tyneside on a flight from Geneva, where it is understood he bought a watch to the value of 22,000 Swiss francs - approximately £15,000.

A source revealed that Shelvey passed through the customs 'green' channel, meaning he had nothing to declare. During questioning Shelvey, 24, is said to have admitted to the purchase and agreed to pay just over £3,000 in duty on the watch. (*Newcastle Chronicle*)

United Kingdom – Holidaymaker arrested with stun gun at East Midlands Airport

A holidaymaker was arrested on his way home from Bulgaria when he was found with an illegal stun-gun - which his children believed was "a play toy to shock people".

Adam North was with his partner and two children when immigration officers at East Midlands Airport found the weapon in his luggage. It had been disguised as an iPhone.

Leicester Crown Court was told that the 30-year-old accepted responsibility for the weapon at the airport.

His partner told the officials that one of the children had bought it in a shop in Bulgaria, during the family holiday, thinking it was "a play toy for shocking people".

Kate Plummer, prosecuting, said the defendant, in interview, told officers that he had confiscated the item in case the child tried to use it on her sister. When they were packing to go home, the item was bundled up with their other possessions and inadvertently brought home.

He pleaded guilty to possessing the prohibited weapon on September 1 last year. North, a chef, was given a six month jail sentence, suspended for 12 months. He was ordered to do 100 hours of unpaid work and pay £800 costs.

Judge Ebrahim Mooncey said: "It's an unusual case. You and your family were returning from holiday in Bulgaria when the security system picked up a suspicious item in the shape of a mobile phone, which was a disguise. It was capable of giving off an electric shock.

"One of your children purchased it in a shop, thinking it was a toy, but you accept responsibility for it ending up in your suitcase when you should have done something other than that with it. Your basis of plea is accepted."

United Kingdom – Adolf Hitler horror of Salford man's passport photo

Salford's Stuart Boyd got a massive shock when he opened his new passport, only to see his photo resembling Nazi monster Adolf Hitler.



"I was absolutely gutted and distraught when I saw it," says Stuart. "Does nobody check these things before they send them out?" Now Stuart's mates are expecting him to grab the sunbeds when they go on holiday in June, while the Passport Office said that it is 'investigating' the Hitler horror.

While no-one really likes their passport photo, Salford's Stuart Boyd got a massive shock when he opened up his new passport and saw that his image had somehow morphed into Adolf Hitler.

"Obviously you go out of your way to make sure your photo looks ok but then you open it up and think, 'Oh my God! What the hell is that?'" says Stuart. "I was absolutely gutted and distraught when I saw it. I WhatsApp-ed it to my sister and she said, 'Someone's done that on purpose,'" he adds, "Does nobody check these things before they send them out? They must have all looked at it and started laughing and thought, 'We're going to send this out anyway'. I was absolutely mortified, I just couldn't believe it. When you go on holiday your mates say 'Let's have a look at your passport photo' and, well, the first thing they're going to say is, 'You look like Adolf Hitler.'"

Stuart posted the Hitler photo on his Facebook page and got a massive reaction, most of which was hilarious, or 'Heilarious' as someone wrote.

Glen said 'What's the problem? It looks alreich to me.'

Mark said: 'A word of advice. Don't be thinking of going to Germany soon.'

Andy said: 'God knows what's going to happen when you go through passport control as the likeness is uncanny LOL. Have you ever done your family tree?'

"We're going away in June and my friend Anita said, 'We're going to send you down to get the sunbeds every morning as they won't challenge you,'" Paul laughs - but, as well as seeing the funny side he wants the Passport Office to change the photo to one that looks more like him. "Hitler is pretty bad really and I've got to put up with that for ten years," he explains "I want to send it back."

A spokesperson for Her Majesty's Passport Office said: "All UK passports are carefully created and checked to exacting standards before they are issued", and promised to contact Stuart to "investigate this case further."

Update: 30th May: The Passport Office has now agreed to issue Stuart with a new passport - and less Hitler-like image!!! (Salford Star)

USA – Nigerian citizen attempted entry at JFK Airport by presenting a visa obtained by fraudulent means

A 41-year-old male, Nigerian citizen and resident arrived at JFK International Airport from Lagos, Nigeria via Dubai, United Arab Emirates on Emirates Airlines flight EK 203. The man's intended destination was Chicago, IL. He presented a Nigerian passport and a B1/B2 United States Non-Immigrant Visa. He was applying for entry as a visitor for pleasure. He was referred to secondary as a match to a One-Day Lookout created by JFK CEU officers indicating that the man may have submitted a vendor-assisted fraudulent application.

The man claimed on his visa application to be working as a mechanical engineer for Nigerian Oil and Gas Company, however, during a CBP outbound exam, conducted on January 10, 2016, he said that he worked as an advertising executive in Lagos, Nigeria.



During the admissibility interview, the man could not recall the details of his education or his work and home addresses listed on his visa application. He finally admitted that he had never worked for any oil and gas company, but that he always worked in advertising and printing. He also admitted that he had paid 1,000,000 Nigerian Naira to a vendor ("Wasim") to complete three U.S. visa applications for himself, his son and his common-law wife.

The man said he sat with "Wasim" when he was filling out the information at an internet café in Lagos, Nigeria. He added that he knew the information Wasim provided on the applications was false and fictitious. He said that Wasim coached him on what to say during his visa interview. He did not have any contact information for Wasim but said he would go to Mr. Big's restaurant and ask where to find him.

The man was found to be inadmissible to the United States under sections 212(a)(6)(C)(i) and 212(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) of the *Immigration and Naturalization Act*. He was refused entry under the Expedited Removal provisions of the *INA*.

USA – Orange County man surrenders on charges of traveling to Canada to have sex with teen he persuaded to send nude videos

A Garden Grove man was taken into federal custody May 2 after being charged with receiving sexually explicit videos from a 13-year-old girl he met online and then traveling to Canada to have sex with the teen.

Paul Binh Do, 29, surrendered to federal authorities May 2. He was charged in April with one count of traveling with the intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct and one count of receipt of child pornography. In a plea agreement also filed last month, Do agreed to plead guilty to the charges that could send him to federal prison for as long as 50 years.

According to the documents filed in U.S. District court, Do began an online relationship with a 13-year-old girl and soon thereafter they began exchanging nude videos of themselves engaging in sexual conduct. Two years ago today, Do traveled to Canada from Orange County to celebrate the victim's 14th birthday and have sex with her, but he was stopped by Canadian law enforcement as he attempted to enter the country.

When he was stopped by Canadian authorities, Do possessed digital devices that contained naked videos of the victim. Following his arrest in Canada, Do obstructed justice when he contacted the victim and asked her to tell law enforcement that she had lied to Do about her age when, in fact, she had been completely truthful about being 13.

USA – CBP nabs 4 fugitives at BWI & Washington Dulles Airports

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers arrested two wanted fugitives each on May 3 at Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) and Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD).

CBP officers at IAD arrested:

- Omar Mahamed Abdulahi, 23, of Annandale, Va., on larceny and assault charges out of Fairfax County, Va., as he prepared to depart the U.S. for Switzerland. CBP turned Abdulahi over to Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police.
- Adonis Nseudi, 30, of Upper Marlboro, Md., on second degree assault charges out of Prince George County, Md., after he arrived on a flight from Belgium. CBP turned Nseudi over to Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police.

CBP officers at BWI arrested:

- Raha S. Robinson, 24, of Boiling Springs, S.C., on rape allegations out of Riley County, Kansas. Robinson returned to the U.S. from Germany. CBP turned Robinson over to Maryland Transportation Authority Police.
- Scott W. Lewis, 35, of York, Pa., for a probation violation on a traffic violation in Harford County, Md., after Lewis arrived from Punta Cana. CBP turned Lewis over to Harford County Sheriff's Office deputies.

CBP officers examine passenger manifests on arriving international flights before those flights land. CBP works with the wanting jurisdiction to verify that the warrant and extradition order remain active. CBP then verifies that the traveler is the subject of the warrant, and works with local law enforcement to initiate extradition to the wanting jurisdiction.

USA – Feds bust frozen fish filled with cocaine in Brooklyn

The feds busted two drug smugglers in Brooklyn after hooking some fish stuffed with cocaine.



Triston Daniels and Troy Gonsalves were reeled in after 20 kilos of cocaine were discovered stashed inside a shipment of frozen fish. They were arraigned May 7 in Brooklyn Federal Court and released on \$150,000 bail.

The fish tale began May 4 when U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers seized an air cargo shipment of "large, frozen fish" from Suriname at Miami International Airport, according to U.S. Homeland Security special agent Ryan Varrone.

Agents filleted the fish and removed the cocaine. The fish was replaced in the shipping boxes and transported by truck to a storage facility in Queens which was kept under surveillance.

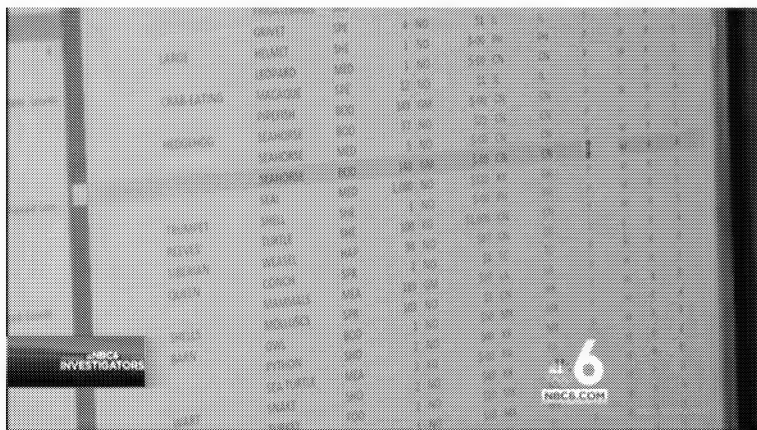
Daniels, 32, and Gonsalves, 33, showed up at the warehouse on May 6 in a white van. They picked up the boxes and drove to another storage facility in Brooklyn where they were arrested as they unloaded the van. Gonsalves admitted that Daniels told him that the shipment contained drugs, the complaint alleges.



The importer of the fish is in Queens and was previously associated with a shipment of 82 kilos of cocaine from Guyana that was seized at the Miami airport in February.

USA – Smuggled birds among seized animal contraband at airports

If you like getting souvenirs on trips out of the country, you may want to take a closer look at what you're bringing home because those buys could be illegal.



Each year, inspectors with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS) seize millions of dollars in items made from animals banned in this country. From crocodile corsets to frog purses to snake gallbladders, much of those items will end up in a government warehouse near Denver.

The animal contraband is often brought in at airports by travelers who just don't know the rules, but sometimes by people determined to smuggle in animals including live birds from the Caribbean.

Sylvia Gaudio, an inspector with FWS,

showed how smugglers rig belts using hair rollers, medicine bottles and other household items to hide birds. "A lot of people use these belts or they actually have pockets in their pants or their shirts and they stuff either [medicine bottles] or toilet paper rolls and they stuff the birds inside," said Gaudio.

Customs inspectors like Ashley Vaught, who work with specially trained dogs at Miami International Airport, say they're not shocked by what they find on travelers. "He was smuggling animal parts for Santeria, sheep's brain, bird head, other various animal parts," Vaught said.

But the finds are especially frustrating for inspectors when the animals are endangered. "We noticed the luggage was extremely heavy. We opened it up and we found a little baby tiger," said Gaudio as she showed the dead animal, which was brought in illegally.

FWS inspectors also conduct random checks on cargo shipments trying to catch importers sneaking in animals with false paperwork.



The agency says one-third of these inspections will turn up a problem. From squid to crocodile, officers seized more than \$16 million worth of animal contraband in Florida since 2009, and more than \$60 million across the country. It can't all be stopped so these officers focus on animals most in peril.

"Viper and I actually find a lot of ivory here in Miami at the mail facility so people just think they can send ivory out or bring it in and Viper and I will be out to find it," said Amir Lawal, a canine handler with FWS.



A pound of ivory is so lucrative it's pushing elephant poaching to its highest levels in a decade. And that has many who own ivory looking to sell. But dealing in ivory is landing some Floridians in court. Dania business owner Raymond Reppert recently admitted in court he falsified customs documents to make it look like he was selling wood samples and resin carvings that were really ivory.

Officers say consumers should know what it takes to create the items they buy. FWS says an average coat might contain 15 to 20 wild cats just to create a single garment. That's something that worries those who see these purchases every day.

"Kind of a sense of dread in a way knowing that some of these animals even in my children's lifetime are not going to be around," said Doni Sprague, who manages the FWS warehouse of seized animal contraband. Some of those items in government storage will be donated to museums.

Those who work with animal contraband say another reason the public should be concerned about this issue is that travelers and smugglers can bring in aggressive species that can invade our communities and throw the ecosystem out of balance, such as pythons in the Everglades. (NBC Miami)

USA – 'It's a shocker': Sheriff's deputy charged in Carlos Rafael case

In 2002, Antonio Freitas was a hero, receiving the state's Medal of Honor for dragging a guard to safety during Easter Day riots at the Bristol County House of Correction. Fourteen years later, Freitas, a member of the sheriff's Honor Guard, stands accused in a federal indictment of helping fishing magnate Carlos Rafael illegally move thousands of U.S. dollars to Portugal.



Freitas, 46, is charged with using his special assignment status as a member of the Department of Homeland Security Task Force, which gave him access to restricted areas of Logan International Airport, to help Rafael smuggle cash out of the U.S.

"They (the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) are as upset as we are. He has been a trusted employee," Bristol County Sheriff Thomas M. Hodgson said on May 9, hours after Freitas' arrest and appearance in U.S. District Court in Worcester. "Everyone always found him to be an exceptional employee. It's a shocker for all of us who have worked with him over the years."

Hodgson said his legal staff is in the process of verifying the charges against Freitas with federal authorities and then he will be suspended without pay; he had previously been on leave with pay since early April while he was under investigation.

Freitas appeared May 9 in federal court in Worcester for his initial appearance and was released on a \$10,000 unsecured bond, according to Christina Dilorio-Sterling, a spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz.

He was arrested May 9 on charges of smuggling cash through Logan to Portugal as part of an elaborate scheme by Rafael, whom prosecutors have charged with selling falsely reported fish to a wholesaler in New York City for bags of money, Dilorio-Sterling said.

"The indictment alleges that, on Feb. 5, with assistance of another individual, Freitas smuggled \$17,500 through airport security and later deposited the money in a Portuguese bank account belonging to Rafael," the U.S. Attorney's office said. The other individual is described as the person to whom Freitas is engaged but was not named in the indictment.

He is charged with one count of bulk cash smuggling and one count of structuring the export of U.S. currency.

USA – CBP Chicago catches nearly 70lbs of opium at Chicago O'Hare

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at Chicago O'Hare International Airport seized nearly 70 pounds of opium from the bags of three separate U.S. citizens traveling into the United States. The three U.S. citizens arrived at Chicago O'Hare International Airport from Vientiane, Laos via Narita, Japan.



The incident unfolded on Tuesday May 10, when the three travelers were selected for a baggage inspection. During the baggage inspection CBP officers discovered 470 packets of a brown powdery substance concealed within bags of tea leaves. The packets containing the brown powder tested positive for opium.

The three passengers and 69.9lbs of opium were turned over to the Chicago Police Department for prosecution.

USA – Canadian border presents its own security concerns for United States

The U.S.-Mexico border has been a topic of much debate this election season. But should our national attention be more focused toward our neighbors to the north? The Canadian border, just 300 miles from New York City, presents its own challenges. All that separates the two countries for miles at a time is a split rail fence that you'd find in any ordinary backyard.



Border Control Division Chief Bradley Curtis spotted a horse that can cross the border with no trouble. But the four-legged border jumper is the least of our concerns, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said. "We see alien smuggling. We see narcotic smuggling. We see currency smuggling," Border Patrol Operations Officer Brad Brandt said.

Agents said much of that activity is heading directly to New York City and our suburbs where the product is sold on our streets.

Large quantities of high potency marijuana can be particularly problematic. Drug

runners sneak across the border in the secret compartments of vehicles. But drugs, as dangerous as they are, are just a part of the story. "Our primary mission of course, is to stop a terrorist," Brandt said. And some spots could be easy points of entry.

"There are radicalized groups that are in Canada — that is a tremendous concern to us," Curtis said regarding terrorism threats. They said Canada's more open-door policy toward Syrian refugees is also of concern.

"Up here we're encountering people from every single country," Curtis said. "They're coming across on snowmobiles. They're coming across on ATVs. Of course, we have 95 miles of water boundaries, so people come across on boat, canoes, anything you can think of."

And although technology is pretty widespread throughout the border, border patrol agents said they use everything at their disposal to mind the front lines. "I've arrested people here, there," Curtis said as he walked through wooded terrain with DuBois.

Everything from foot patrols to ground sensors to hidden cameras in the woods are monitored at a command center in Swanton, Vermont. The command center is manned "24 hours, seven days a week, 365," Curtis said.

Agents say they win daily battles. In the last year, agents seized more than 10,000 pounds of marijuana and millions of dollars in illegal currency coming into the U.S. Going out of the country, they stop shipments of a wide variety of illegal guns.

To win the larger war, agents say, they need more troops. "We've actually asked to double the man power. There's only so many border patrol agents in the country allowed. We're competing with the southwest border," Curtis said.

The sector currently only has about 300 agents covering about 300 miles, including a large Indian reservation that's an attractive route for smugglers. With so much ground to cover, the agents said they rely heavily on the people who live along the border to alert them to any suspicious activity. (CBS New York)

USA – Atlanta CBP officers arrest Guatemalan man, intercepts cocaine concealed inside packages of red beans



U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers working at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) arrested a Guatemalan man and seized more than 26 pounds of cocaine concealed inside packages of beans on May 13.

During an inspection of the traveler's baggage, CBP officers found numerous packages of uncooked red beans. Officers sliced open a package and discovered a white-powdery substance inside. The substance field-tested positive for cocaine. The cocaine weighed 26.49 pounds.

CBP turned the individual over to Clayton County Police officers for local prosecution. The man arrived from Guatemala City, Guatemala and was enroute to New York.

USA – Jamaican woman caught smuggling cocaine in chocolate-milk mix at JFK

A Jamaican national was busted at Kennedy Airport trying to smuggle cocaine inside cans of instant chocolate drink mix, authorities said. Tova Levy, 35, was toting two bags when she stepped off a Caribbean Airlines flight from Kingston on May 15.



Canada Border
Services Agency

Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada



Customs and Border Protection officers selected Levy for examination and became suspicious about four cans of Lasco brand chocolate mix she was bringing into the U.S. An officer cut open one of the cans and found a white powdery substance which tested positive for the presence of cocaine, according to a complaint filed in Brooklyn Federal Court. Nearly two kilos in total were seized.

Levy, who admitted the carry-on bags belonged to her, was ordered held without bail. (*NY Daily News*)

USA – CBP assesses Zero Tolerance penalty to traveler at BWI Airport

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations at Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport found a small amount of marijuana and amphetamines May 16 in bags carried by a U.S. citizen arriving from the Dominican Republic.

A woman was referred for a secondary inspection where a subsequent search by CBP officers resulted in the discovery and seizure of a smoking pipe with marijuana residue and two unprescribed amphetamine pills. The woman, a Hanover, Md. resident, was assessed a \$500 Zero Tolerance penalty and released.

USA – CBP seizes \$28K in unreported currency at Washington Dulles International Airport

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations, at Washington Dulles International Airport seized \$28,518 May 16 from a U.S. citizen for violating federal currency reporting regulations.

A man, who is a resident of Georgia, was boarding a flight to Ethiopia and was selected for questioning by CBP officers who were conducting an outbound enforcement operation on the international flight. The man completed a financial form, reporting \$18,000 however; a total of \$28,518 was discovered on his person and in his luggage. CBP officers seized the \$28,518 and advised him how to petition for the return of the currency.

USA – Canadian caught at U.S. border tried to bribe his way out of trouble

A Canadian man tried to bribe a U.S. Customs officer with \$200 when he was caught with marijuana and shotgun ammunition at the border, according to charging papers.

Brian James DeCoteau, 52, of Nanaimo, B.C., drove to the United States on the morning of Monday, May 16, but he was stopped at the border in Sumas for a secondary inspection, according to the charges.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers reported finding marijuana and live shotgun shells in his vehicle. Charging papers say they patted down DeCoteau, too, and found a baggie of marijuana in a coat pocket. One Customs officer told him he faced a fine of \$500, and that he needed to apply for a waiver before trying to enter the United States again.

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"If I drop some brown ones on the floor on my way out of here could you make this go away?" DeCoteau asked the officer, according to the charges. Canada's \$100 bills are brown. The officer asked if he was offering a bribe. "Yes, if you can make this go away," DeCoteau replied, according to the charges.

DeCoteau, who owns a landscaping business on Vancouver Island, said he might pay \$500. The officer left to ask internal affairs what to do. He came back and

asked DeCoteau again how much he would pay. He told him he'd give him "one brown one," then clarified that he meant a \$100 bill, according to the charges. Prosecutors allege the officer haggled until DeCoteau agreed to pay \$200.

DeCoteau offered to drop the money in a bathroom, out of view of security cameras, according to the charges. Before he went in, Customs officers searched the bathroom without telling DeCoteau, in search of any errant \$100 bills. They found none. Then DeCoteau went into the bathroom. Once he walked out, the officer walked in. He found a paper towel in the trash. Wrapped inside were two \$100 Canadian bills, according to the charges.

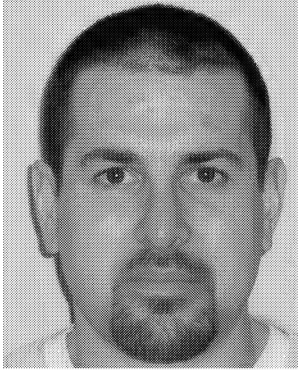
Sheriff's deputies booked DeCoteau into Whatcom County Jail on suspicion of bribing a witness, specifically a public servant, a class B felony. He remained in jail May 19 in lieu of \$25,000 bond, as set by Superior Court Commissioner Martha Gross. (*The Bellingham Herald*)

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Canada

USA – Washington state man arrested for attempted enticement of a minor

A northern Washington state man was arrested by special agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations May 20 as he approached the U.S./Canada border to travel to British Columbia to have sexual contact with a person he believed to be a 12-year-old girl he met through an ad on Craigslist.



Christopher David Johnston, 39, was arrested by HSI special agents as he attempted to illegally enter **Canada**. Johnston made his initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Seattle May 20 where he is charged by complaint with attempted enticement of a minor. He will remain in custody pending a detention hearing. Attempted enticement of a minor is punishable by a mandatory minimum 10 years to life in prison.

In May Johnston began communicating with a person who responded to a personal ad he placed on Craigslist. The ad said Johnston was seeking a "young lady to spoil." An HSI agent replied to the ad, indicating that she was not yet 13. Despite that, Johnston engaged in increasingly sexualized emails, texts and chats with the special agent, ultimately arranging to meet the "child" in Abbotsford for sex. Johnston told the "girl" that he was planning on crossing the border illegally to meet her in Canada. He was arrested in the U.S. near Sumas as he rode his bicycle toward the border.

USA – CBP intercepts \$100K in unreported currency at Orlando International Airport

On May 21, CBP OFO officers of the A-TCET arrested a 46 year old male citizen of Spain after he was discovered attempting to smuggle \$104,830 aboard a JetBlue Airways flight destined to Costa Rica. The currency was concealed within two notebook binders and in loose stacks in plastic bags inside his backpack.

He was turned over to HSI Special Agents for federal prosecution.

USA – Drug smuggling suspect punched border patrol horse

A woman arrested during a drug smuggling bust was also booked into jail on an animal cruelty charge after she reportedly punched a border agent's horse.



Border Patrol agents were conducting enforcement operations near Why, Ariz. late at night on May 21 when they spotted a group of about nine people wearing large backpacks in the desert. According to police paperwork, the area is frequently used by illegal immigrants and narcotics smugglers trying to get to Interstate 8.

Ground units located the group and took them into custody after they tried to run away. Karla Banegas-Banegas, one of the suspects in the group, struck a Border Patrol horse "in the face with a closed fist," paperwork says.

Seven backpacks were located nearby with 374 pounds of marijuana. A few people in the group admitted to smuggling the drugs, but Banegas-Banegas remained silent. Banegas-Banegas was transferred to Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and booked into jail on counts of drug possession, transport, and cruelty to a work animal.

USA – Rape suspect nabbed at Peace Arch border

A man wanted on child-rape charges in the U.S. was apprehended at the Peace Arch border crossing.

Officials with U.S. Customs and Border Protection say the 23-year-old was attempting to cross into Canada on May 22 when Canada Border Services Agency discovered a warrant out of King County for "third degree rape of a child."

Refused entry, the traveller was escorted back to the U.S., where he was fingerprinted, matched to the National Crime Information Centre warrant and detained. The man's identity has not been released. (*Peace Arch News*)

USA – McCarran sees spike in drug smuggling

We don't often hear about drug investigations at McCarran International Airport; it is a pretty secretive business. But, an increase in drugs coming through the airport is keeping law enforcement busy. U.S. Customs and Border Protection Port Director Warren Eales often sees this different side of Las Vegas.

"Las Vegas has a vested interest in people wanting to come here and projecting a safe and fun and secure environment," he said. "I think that there may be an element that likes to keep that as quiet as possible or certainly not front page news across the country."



His agency is often the last line of defense in the airport for arriving international passengers. Eales says there has been a significant increase during the past five years in drug smugglers arriving in Las Vegas.

Michael Harris is an assistant special agent in charge for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. "Their methods

of concealment are getting better, so we have to get better," he said. "That they can load up suitcases, and purchase a ticket in cash, and jump on the airplane, and smuggle 50 pounds of cocaine, it's just incredible. You wouldn't have seen it five years ago because of the scrutiny at the airport."

Airport security tightened after 9/11, and both Harris and Eales say law enforcement staffing has increased in recent years.

As southern Nevada recovers from the economic downturn, and more people are flying in and out of McCarran, more drugs are showing up there. "There are some things with a growing community, a growing airport, growing international traffic, you know, it's not 100 percent roses," Eales said. "There are also some thorns mixed in there that we're going to have to deal with."

Authorities estimate half of the drugs arriving at McCarran are for southern Nevada, and half are passing through to other destinations.

Harris says agents pay special attention to flights coming from Mexico, since it's a major source of drugs, and passengers headed to Australia. A kilogram of cocaine in the United States is valued at \$20,000; in Australia, it's worth \$180,000. "Vegas seems to be a transit area," Harris said.

According to Homeland Security, two women from Las Vegas were recently recruited to travel to Australia with surfboards packed with drugs. They made it there, but they were also locked up. Investigators are working to find out how these women were recruited. This is one of an estimated five significant cases this year involving the agency's work at McCarran Airport.

Officials say they find drugs are transported in checked baggage and carry-ons. Some smugglers are brazen enough to have the drugs on them. (KLAS-TV)

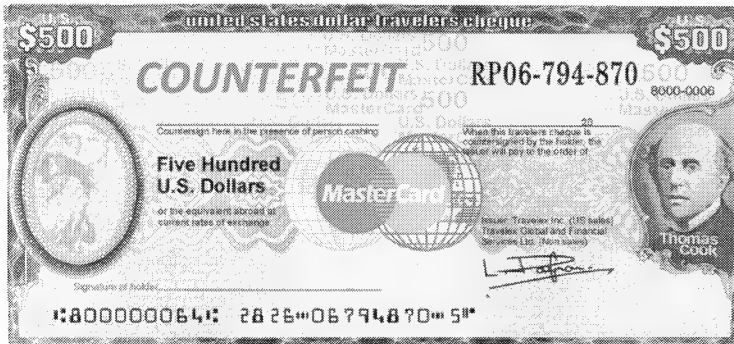
USA – Philadelphia CBP intercepts \$33K shipment of Chicago-bound counterfeit travelers checks

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers intercepted an international parcel that contained more than \$33,000 in counterfeit travelers checks May 25 near Philadelphia International Airport.



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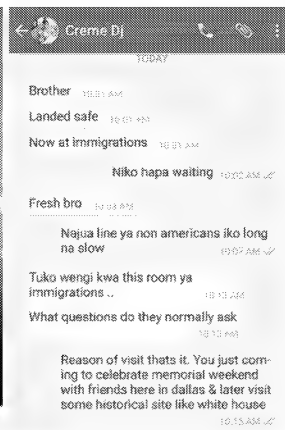
CBP officers inspected the parcel, which arrived from Nigeria and was manifested as documents, and discovered 67 separate \$500 MasterCard travelers checks. Upon closer inspection, CBP officers discovered that none of the security features were visible on the checks.

CBP officers seized the parcel, which was destined to an address in Chicago.

Authorities made no arrests.

USA – DJ Crème de la Crème risks deportation to Kenya after being arrested by US immigration officers

Celebrated Kenyan disc jockey DJ Crème de la Crème has been detained by US authorities after he was reportedly found with an inappropriate visa.



A Dallas-based promoter going by the name Charles Tall Oliver, said the renowned disc jockey arrived safely in the US on May 25, and was ready for a month-long tour, but was arrested by US Immigration officials. DJ Crème was reportedly found to be entering the US with a visitor's visa on pretext that he would be touring the country, but in reality had shows lined up.

The Immigration officials at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport even had fliers in their possession showing shows and dates that DJ Crème would be fronting in the US, which they used as evidence to apprehend him.

"I have some very urgent and sad news. DJ Crème de la Crème landed safely in DFW today from Kenya via Dubai on an Emirates flight. He texted me to inform me he had landed, I told him I was out there waiting for him to clear with immigration. Unfortunately he did not go through immigration and he is being held at DFW," the promoter said on his Facebook page.

He also lamented that a rival promoter could have snatched on DJ Crème so as to sabotage the events that were to be hosted by socialite Vera Sidika. He also accompanied the post with a screenshot of his WhatsApp conversation with DJ Crème, maybe to assure revelers who had already purchased tickets for the show that indeed the performances were as promised on the fliers.

Since the development, neither DJ Crème nor the promoter has shared what transpired but it is widely believed that he will likely get deported by the US, which tends to be strict on Visa matters regarding foreigners especially Africans.

Most of East African artistes who fly to the US to headline shows normally enter with a visitor's visa as opposed to a work visa. Since they make money while performing in the US, they are required to travel on a work visa. (Zipo)

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Canada

USA – Fire breaks out at border crossing

An overheated engine caused a vehicle fire at the Peace Arch Border Crossing at approximately 1:20 p.m. on May 26. The fire has been extinguished and no one was injured.



The border crossing was reopened shortly after the fire was put out. Officials closed off the lane the burned minivan was in and rerouted traffic through the other lanes. Washington State Patrol removed the burned vehicle.

CBP officials say they believe the fire was caused by an overheated engine, but couldn't be more specific until a more thorough investigation could be made. (*The Northern Light*)

USA – Blaine Police reports, May 5 – May 30

May 6, 4:30 a.m.: Officer was dispatched to the Peace Arch Port of Entry for a person in possession of suspected methamphetamine. The drug field-tested positive for methamphetamine, and the 37-year-old Grandview, Washington man was booked into Whatcom County Jail for the possession charge.



May 6, 1:58 p.m.: U.S. Customs and Border Protection called and notified Blaine officers of a wrong way driver in the northbound lanes of I-5 at US Customs. It was believed the vehicle had exited onto D Street. Officers from several agencies were checking the city

for the vehicle when a Blaine officer located the suspect vehicle getting onto southbound I-5 at MP 275. The vehicle was stopped and the elderly occupants were contacted. The driver stated he had become confused and thought that he was going to Custer. When he saw Canada Customs ahead he had turned around and drove the wrong way getting off on the northbound 276 on-ramp. A driver's re-evaluation report will be sent to the Department of Licensing.

May 6, 7:52 p.m.: Police were dispatched to a report of a man yelling at and berating people inside a store. Officers and Border patrol agents arrived to find the US citizen walking to the Canadian Customs lines at SR543. Officers watched the man yell at the Canadian Border Services employees and waited for him to head south, back into the US. Once the agitated man crossed back over the International Boundary police contacted him. It was determined the man did not have any warrants. He was then trespassed from the two stores where he had been expressing his anger. He decided to continue south on his travels.

May 9, 3:33 a.m.: A Blaine officer was dispatched to the Peace Arch POE for a suspended driver. An officer arrived and confirmed the suspension. The driver was arrested, cited and then released with a mandatory court date.

May 9, 4:08 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to US Customs and Border Protection – Peace Arch for a suspended driver. Contact was made with the Bellingham resident and his Washington privileges were confirmed suspended. The man was arrested, cited and released with a summons into Blaine court. A licensed driver was contacted to obtain the vehicle.

May 10, 5:40 p.m.: Blaine Police were dispatched to the Peace Arch port of entry for a report of a woman driving southbound into the primary inspection area with an open container of alcohol and several marijuana pipes in her car. The Blaine officer arrived and immediately recognized the woman as a person the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office was looking for. The officer called their dispatch center and advised them of finding her. A sheriff's deputy arrived and processed the woman for the county's charges plus an additional DUI.

May 13, 8:55 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to U.S. Customs and Border Protection for a suspended driver. The officer verified the suspension out of California. The British Columbia resident was arrested, cited and released for the driving offense.

May 13, 4:33 p.m.: U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Peace Arch port of entry intercepted a B.C. man driving with a suspended driver's status in Oregon. A Blaine officer arrested the man for the criminal license violation, cited and released him pending his appearance in court.

May 16, 12:55 p.m.: Blaine Police assisted U.S. Customs and Border Protection with a rental vehicle whose front license plate had been reported stolen. An officer arrived and determined the out-of-state license plate matched the vehicle and no front plate was issued. The originating agency that entered the plate as stolen was notified of the error.

May 16, 7:20 p.m.: Police were dispatched to the Peace Arch port of entry for a driver with a suspended license. The driver was arrested and released with a mandatory court date. The driver was unable to find a licensed driver, and the vehicle was ultimately towed.

May 17, 5:55 p.m.: An officer located an abandoned suitcase outside of a motel. Upon talking to the manager, the officer learned the suitcase belonged to a family who had stayed at the hotel. It is suspected the family may have illegally crossed the border into Canada. The property was turned over to U.S. Border Patrol.

May 19, 9:10 p.m.: Blaine Police responded to assist U.S. Border Patrol agents in the 500 block of 8th Street. A man had illegally crossed into the U.S. from Canada and was found to have a felony warrant from the U.S. Marshal's Office. An officer arrived, confirmed the warrant and arrested the man. He was transported and booked into Whatcom County Jail.

May 20, 4:16 p.m.: Customs and Border Protection Officers at the Peace Arch port of entry intercepted a B.C. man driving with a suspended driver's status in Oregon. A Blaine Police officer arrested the man for the criminal license violation, cited and released him pending his appearance in court.

May 22, 8 p.m.: Police were called to the Peace Arch port of entry for a 19-year-old woman who was found to have suspected marijuana as well as alcohol in her vehicle. Following an investigation, the woman was arrested, cited and then released with a mandatory court date.

May 23, 12:27 p.m.: Blaine Police was dispatched to the Peace Arch port of entry for a driver with a suspended license. An officer contacted the driver and confirmed his license was suspended for an unpaid ticket. The 41-year-old Surrey, B.C. resident was arrested, cited and released with a mandatory court date.

May 23, 1:12 p.m.: Blaine Police was dispatched to the Peace Arch port of entry for a driver with a suspended license. An officer contacted the driver and confirmed his license was suspended for an unpaid ticket. The 50-year-old North Vancouver, B.C. resident was arrested, cited and released with a mandatory court date.

May 23, 1:41 p.m.: Blaine Police was dispatched to the Peace Arch port of entry for a driver with a suspended license. An officer contacted the driver and confirmed his license was suspended for an unpaid ticket. The 59-year-old Vancouver, B.C. resident was arrested, cited and released with a mandatory court date.

May 23, 9:05 p.m.: A person attempting to enter the US from Canada was found to be driving with a suspended license. The driver was arrested, issued a criminal citation and released with a court date. The vehicle was released to a licensed driver.

May 23, 9:50 p.m.: CBP officers turned over a WA State dealer plate that was being used by a person to facilitate multiple crossings between Canada and the U.S. in an effort to avoid fees and duties. The charges were handled by the B.C. border patrol, but the plate was handed over for destruction to the Blaine Police Department. The plate was destroyed in accordance with state law and department policy.

May 25, 11:25 a.m.: Blaine Police were dispatched to the Peace Arch port of entry for a driver with a suspended license. An officer contacted the motorist and confirmed that her privilege to drive in Washington had been suspended after she failed to adjudicate a prior infraction. The driver was arrested, cited and released with a mandatory court date for the criminal licensing violation.

May 25, 12:23 p.m.: Police were dispatched to the Peace Arch port of entry for a motorist who was operating a vehicle with a suspended driver's license. An officer contacted the man, confirmed the suspension, arrested and cited him, and released him with a mandatory court date.

May 26, noon: Motel staff called police dispatch to report a customer had abandoned a rental vehicle on their property, possibly in the process of illegally crossing northbound in to Canada. The vehicle is not yet reported overdue or stolen, and Blaine officers are working with the appropriate agencies.

May 26, 1:08 p.m.: Blaine Police and North Whatcom Fire and Rescue (NWFR) units responded when a vehicle in the southbound lineup caught fire at the Peace Arch port of entry. The arriving units found a passenger car near the building and inspection booths fully engulfed in fast-moving flames. Local and federal officers provided crowd control at the site and briefly closed the nearby northbound freeway lanes as dense smoke was impairing driver visibility, while the crew of NWFR Engine 61 battled and extinguished the blaze. No one was injured in the accidental inferno.

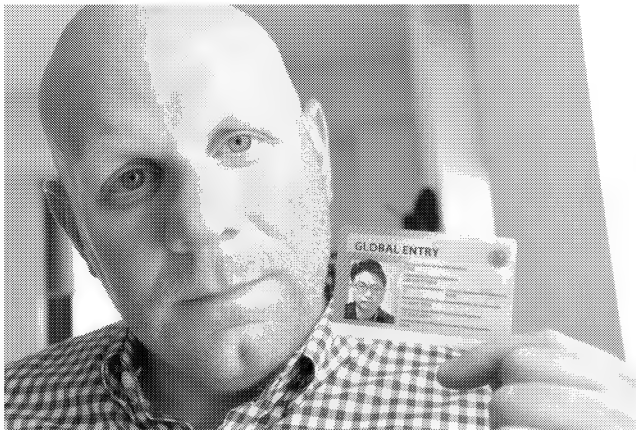
May 27, 6:04 p.m.: Customs and Border Protection officers at the Peace Arch port of entry intercepted a B.C. man driving with a suspended driver's status in California. A Blaine police officer arrested the man for the criminal license violation, cited and released him pending his appearance in court.

May 30, 4:52 p.m.: Customs personnel at the Peace Arch port contacted Blaine Police inquiring what social services were available to assist a family whose travel plans had been interrupted by unforeseen events. The local and federal officers reviewed the options for the sojourners to explore. (*The Northern Light*)

USA – US Customs bungles Global Entry pass in ‘frightening’ error

A Manhattan man's effort to ease his way through US Customs crossed the border into a bureaucratic nightmare.

Lee Fine, a 38-year-old software salesman from Chelsea, was thrilled to obtain a Global Entry pass, which he hoped would let him skip Customs lines when he and his girlfriend returned from a vacation in Mexico.



But there was a big glitch: The “Lee Fine” on the plastic card is a bespectacled Asian man with Korean citizenship.

“It’s kind of frightening that that mistake could be made so easily. They don’t check their work,” said Fine, who is white and an American citizen.

Travelers with Global Entry cards returning to the US can go to an airport kiosk, present their passport and place their hand on a scanner to verify their fingerprints. If accepted, they are allowed to leave the area and collect their baggage.

Before travelers are issued the card, they must undergo what US Customs and Border Protection calls “a

rigorous background check and in-person interview.” Everyone who applies for the card is supposed to be fingerprinted — but Fine never got to the finger-printing stage.

The mix-up with his card likely occurred because Fine and a man whose last name was Lee both had appointments on April 12 at around the same time with Customs agents at Kennedy Airport. When he arrived at JFK, he was barely seated before an officer looked at his name, said a mistake had been made, and ushered him outside, Fine said.

“They used my information and my file for someone else,” he said he was told. “They told me at that point they flagged it, but the office is in DC and that it’s going to take six hours to resolve,” he said. Later that day, he got an e-mail congratulating him on getting the Global Entry card. He received the card with the wrong photo a week later.

Fine said his calls to CBP, which like the TSA is part of Homeland Security, have gone unanswered. He even went back to JFK, and, “They just kept blowing me off,” he said. On May 27 CBP sent Fine an e-mail notifying him that the card has been revoked.

CBP spokesman David Long said he couldn't comment on Fine's situation for privacy reasons, but insisted "instances like this are extremely rare." (*New York Post*)

USA – CBP arrests man wanted for sexual assault

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport arrested a man, with an active felony warrant for sexual assault of child, May 30. The traveler, 26, was returning to the U.S. from Dubai when CBP officers arrested him.

The traveler, a lawful permanent resident, was wanted in Arlington, Texas for sexual assault of child under the age of 17. CBP officers turned the traveler over to DFW Department of Public Safety.

USA – Border Patrol stop illegal border crossing in Blaine (Maine)

Tayfun Remzi Reis, a Turkish citizen, was found by U.S. Border Patrol agent Jason May hiding twenty-five feet off of a field road on a farm in Blaine attempting to enter the United States illegally according to an affidavit filed in U.S. District Court.



On May 30th, at approximately 2:00p.m. Customs and Border Protection officers detained a subject at the Port of Entry in Houlton, Maine. They detained this subject based on the belief that they would be smuggling an individual in to the United States. Upon investigation the detainee stated that he drove a second subject to a field road on the **Canadian** side of the border where the passenger then exited the vehicle. It was determined that the information placed the subject in close proximity to the International Boundary at Blaine/Mars Hill, Maine townships.

At approximately 5:00p.m. Border Patrol was notified of a sensor activation in the Blaine area. The sensor is located approximately three hundred yards from the border on a farm road. Accompanying the sensor activation was an image that showed a male walking westbound from the International Boundary. Border patrol agent Jason May was dispatched to the area. May proceeded to the farm road and observed a beaten down trail in the grass heading southwest from the location of the sensor. Approximately twenty-five feet in to the woods a male subject was found attempting to conceal his presence. The subject was lying in a fetal position with a few branches covering his position.

The male subject identified himself as David Danser and presented a birth certificate issued from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as well as a New Jersey's driver's license. He was detained and transported to the Houlton Border Patrol Station for further investigation. Fingerprints revealed that the subject was Tayfun Remzi Reis, a citizen of Turkey.

On May 31, Reis voluntarily informed Border Patrol that he had hid his Turkish passport in the woods. Border Patrol records check revealed that Reis was denied admission and expeditiously removed from the United States in 2005 under the name of Ertug Sefa Gunay. He was the subject of a Homeland Security Investigation. The United States Attorney General's Office has taken over the investigation. (WAGM)

USA – Dulles CBP arrests drug offender

U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Washington Dulles International Airport arrested a Virginia man May 31 who was wanted by the Harrisonburg, Va., Police Department for the sale of marijuana.

Ramana Venkata Kalicheti, 23, of Oak Hill, Va., arrived on a flight from Bogota, Colombia. CBP officers determined Kalicheti to be the subject of an arrest warrant obtained by the Harrisonburg Police. CBP officers verified the validity of the warrant and confirmed extradition. CBP officers arrested Kalicheti and turned him over to Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority officers for extradition.

U.S. Virgin Islands – Puerto Rico man pleads guilty to smuggling aliens

A Puerto Rico man pleaded guilty in federal court on May 3 to trying to smuggle illegal immigrants from Brazil into the U.S. Virgin Islands through King Airport on St. Thomas. Angel De Jesus Marrero, 31, appeared in District Court on St. Thomas and pleaded to the charge of encouraging and inducing aliens to illegally enter the United States.

According to the plea agreement filed with the court, on Dec. 22, Marrero was solicited by his co-defendant, Rodriguez Ramirez, to assist in the passage of five illegal Brazilian nationals through the St. Thomas airport by checking them in at the airline ticket kiosk. Afterward, he was to ensure that the illegal aliens made it to the appropriate gate to depart St. Thomas for New York.

However, federal agents thwarted the plan before anyone boarded the aircraft and apprehended the defendants along with the illegal aliens, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Marrero's sentencing date has been set for Sept. 1. Ramirez previously pleaded guilty to bribing a Customs officer and is awaiting sentencing on June 16.

U.S. Virgin Islands – 'Operation Gun Dog' nets 18 firearms

Naeem Akil Smith, 24, of St. Thomas was arrested April 27 and charged May 5 with the unlawful possession of 18 firearms, including two assault rifles, at the Cyril E. King Airport, U.S. Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced. Smith's arrest resulted from a joint law enforcement operation named "Operation Gun Dog," which was conducted by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection task force during the St. Thomas Carnival season.



Smith made his initial court appearance May 5 before District Court Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller. A detention hearing for Smith was held May 6, at which he was ordered to post a \$10,000 unsecured bond. Smith is also required to wear an electronic monitor.

According to the complaint, a law enforcement K-9 at the Cyril E. King Airport on April 27 alerted to the presence of firearms inside of luggage checked in Smith's name. Customs and Border Protection officers examined Smith's luggage, which revealed one Taurus pistol, 15

Glock pistols, and two AK-47 assault rifles. His luggage also contained two AK-47 magazines, 36 other pistol magazines with capacities ranging from 9 to 15 rounds, 10 speed loaders, 20 rounds for a .40 caliber Smith and Wesson, and a storage box. Smith was taken into custody. (*St. Thomas Source*)

U.S. Virgin Islands – Indian held for trying to enter US on fake driver's licence

A 23-year-old Indian man was arrested by US immigration authorities and has been charged with illegally trying to enter the US by using a fake driver's licence.

Chintamkumar Patel, who faces up to an year in prison, made his initial appearance before US Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller in the US Virgin Islands after being charged in a complaint with using a false document to defraud the United States. US Attorney Ronald Sharpe announced said Patel was released pending further proceedings after a detention and preliminary hearings.

According to the complaint, Patel arrived at the Virgin Islands airport on May 19 and at immigration presented a false New York driver's licence. Patel was a ticketed passenger on an American Airlines flight to the mainland US.

Vietnam – Furious tourists clash with airport border officers after they were 'asked to give TIPS while going through passport control'

Footage of an argument between Chinese tourists and customs at a Vietnamese airport has emerged. The group claimed they were angry after some of the members were asked to tip customs officials.

The incident allegedly occurred on May 2 at Cam Ranh International Airport in Nha Trang, as the group were heading through customs to board their flight back to Chengdu, south-west China. The group were scheduled to take flight VN718 operated by Vietnam Airlines at 21.10 on May 2 when the incident occurred.

In the first video, customs officers can be seen gathered around a man trying to drag him away before one officer beats him across the head. People around him start shouting and screaming. A woman thought to be the man's wife tries to intervene and they continue to fight. By this point, more officers try to intervene.



One man who was travelling with his wife and four-year-old child refused to pay the bribe of 10 yuan (£1.06). Customs officers then told him he would have to pay 100 yuan (£10.60) instead. Some tourists became enraged singing the Chinese national anthem.

In the second video filmed at the airport, the group can be seen gathering and shouting at the customs officers. When one tourist gets out her phone, an officer pushes it away to try and stop her from filming. One officer can be seen holding a stun gun and aiming it at the group who are now chanting. The officers then gather together to discuss the situation.



In response to the incident and the footage released, the Chinese Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City said on May 3 that it was speaking with the parties concerned to further understand what happened.

Part of the statement, posted on the consulate's official website, read: 'Staff at our consulate have started an emergency negotiation with the Vietnamese authorities. At the same time, [we] guide Chinese citizens to protect their rights sensibly while collecting relevant evidence.'

The statement said all Chinese citizens had returned to their country safely. (*Daily Mail*)

Vietnam – Tan Son Nhat Airport customs seize gun, bullets sent from US



Tan Son Nhat Airport customs on May 13 found a rifle, 50 bullets and two teargas shells in a consignment sent from the US. They were hidden among clothes and personal items in a carton box, customs officers said.

The named recipient is a 27-year-old Vietnamese woman who was unable to produce relevant documents for the gun. Customs officers are coordinating with police for further investigation.

Vietnam banned civilian ownership of air guns in 2006. (*Thanh Niên News*)



Vietnam – Australian woman caught with 3 kilos of heroin at Vietnam airport

Police and customs officers at Tan Son Nhat Airport on May 20 arrested an Australian national for attempting to smuggle around three kilograms of heroin to Australia.

The 76-year-old woman hid the drug in five jars of fermented fish paste among other items in her luggage.

She said she owed gambling money to some people in Australia and they forced her to smuggle the drug over to clear the debt. The heroin is estimated to have a street value of around US\$720,000. (*Thanh Niên News*)



Vietnam – Australian man gets life sentence in Vietnam for smuggling heroin

A court in Ho Chi Minh City on May 30 sentenced an Australian man to life in prison for attempting to smuggle 3.5 kilograms of heroin from the city to Sydney.

Nathan Andrew James, 34, was arrested at Tan Son Nhat Airport in October 2013 while checking in for a flight to Sydney. Customs officers found the drug hidden in his luggage. According to the indictment, James was asked by a Tim to carry the drug to Australia to clear his debt. Tim is still at large.

James could have been sentenced to death, but the court took his restricted cognitive capability into consideration. (*Thanh Niên News*)

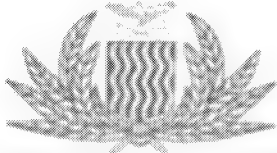
Zambia – Zambia rescues four Malawian girls

Immigration officers at Kenneth Kaunda International airport in Zambia have rescued four girls believed to have been trafficked from Malawi. According to the spokesperson for Mchinji border Andida Mando, the four girls were dropped at the airport on May 25 in order to board a plane to an overseas country.



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Mando added that the officers questioned the abductor, who gave contradictory statements on why he was taking the girls abroad. The suspect told the officers that the girls were in Zambia to attend a funeral but later he changed the statement and said he was an agent helping girls secure a job in Kuwait.

The Zambian government has since sent back the girls to Malawi and the suspect is expected to be handed over to Malawi police for further questioning.

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May 1 – British Airways' new A380 arrives at YVR with 466 passengers and 25 crew on board.



VIA 1988



(L-R) John Ashikian, Sunny Yuen, Bev Harris, Rose-Ann Jang, Gord Redmond

Thanks to Sherrill Clarke and Rohan Coelho for their contributions to this month's issue.

Bob Pedersen

**Superintendent
CBSA, Vancouver International Airport**

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Enforcement Report

CBSA Vancouver International Airport

June - July 2016



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VIA ENFORCEMENT REPORT #75

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DISTRICT SUMMARY

June volumes were up by almost 10% over last year (51,097 more passengers) and are up by 22% from 2013 (114,547 more passengers). June 25 saw our first 20,000 passenger day, with 20,456.

Seizures numbered 102 in June and 77 in July. The largest seizure by value was a seizure of 128 kg of marijuana by Air Cargo officers. Ninety-two of the seizures were of currency. We seized \$1,672,281.33 in cash alone. It would be nice if we could get some press releases for some of these seizures.

Flight changes

From December 1, 2016 to March 26, 2017, China Southern Airlines' Guangzhou-Vancouver service will be operated by Boeing 787-8 aircraft, replacing previously planned 777-300ER.

Air China's Beijing-Vancouver frequency increases from 14 to 17 per week from August 16 to September 6.

Effective November 13, Air Canada Rouge will operate a weekly Palm Springs to Vancouver flight, increasing to twice-weekly as of December 9.

STAFF CHANGES

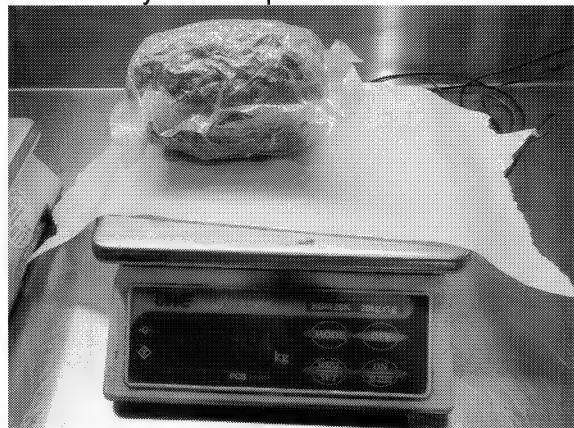
COURT NEWS

NARCOTICS

On June 2, while conducting export rummages at the UPS courier warehouse, **Mori Favor** examined a UPS shipment declared as "Health Product". The shipment was being exported to an individual in [redacted] from an individual from Richmond. The cardboard box contained six large bottles [redacted]. Upon opening the bottles, marijuana was found within each bottle covered by yellow capsules. A total of 1.1 kilograms was seized. The RCMP declined a controlled delivery.

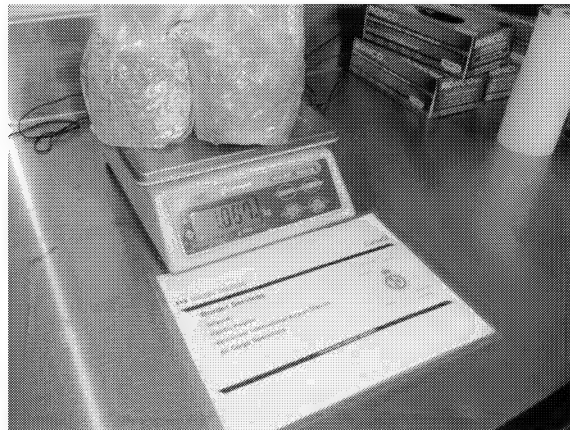
Amritpal Jawanda seized five bottles (300 capsules in total) of DHEA (CDSA Schedule IV) on June 6 from a TNT package which was properly declared as containing DHEA. The shipment had been sent from a vitamin store [redacted] to an individual in east Vancouver.

Marijuana outbound [redacted]. On June 10, while conducting export exams at DHL, **Sebastian Bortero** selected an eight kg shipment destined for [redacted] declared as protein powder, for further examination. The shipper was [redacted] in Burnaby. The shipment contained four bottles



[redacted] which appeared to be have been sealed shut by a hot glue gun. Once opened, a search [redacted] revealed clear Ziploc bags which contained 1.07 kilograms of marijuana.

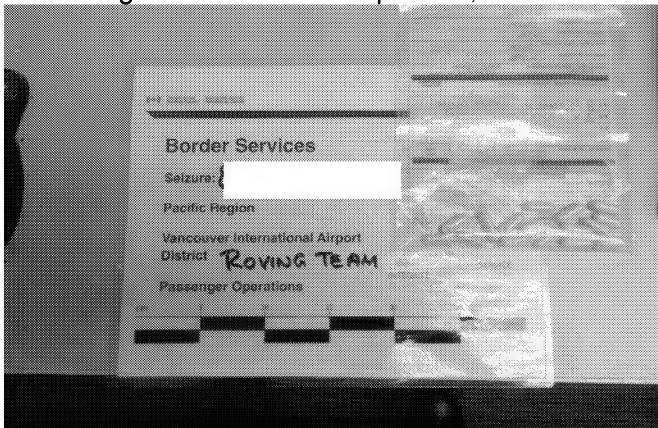
More marijuana outbound [redacted]. In an almost identical seizure action on June 14, **Pat Sharma** examined a six lb. DHL shipment destined [redacted] declared [redacted]. The exporter was [redacted] again, but this time he gave an address on [redacted] in Richmond. The shipment contained four bottles [redacted] which also appeared to have been sealed shut with a hot glue gun. The



bottles had a strong odour of glue. Each bottle was opened revealing a vacuum-sealed bag within another plastic bag which contained a total of 1.087 kilograms of marijuana.

Marijuana to (again). While conducting UPS export checks on June 15, **Tony Nannar** and **Pat Sharma** examined two parcels going from Vancouver in a manner similar to previous marijuana seizures. Both had similar handwritten invoices however the importers were different. Examination of both parcels revealed 273 g and 276 g of vacuum-packed marijuana, for a total of 549 grams.

On June 21, **Arif Jamal** roved a man returning on from the EDM (Electronic Dance Music) concert in Las Vegas. The man appeared nervous, was trembling and had abnormally bloodshot eyes, so he was selected for examination. His carry-on bag revealed several capsules containing off-white coloured powder, which both lonscanned and NIK-tested positive for cocaine. The man was immediately arrested. An examination of his two cell phones revealed that he had shipped a package



just before departing Canada. When questioned at length, the man admitted that he had shipped an ounce of MDMA to where he sold some of it to his friends. The man admitted that he used bio-data on a lost/stolen driver's licence as the shipper's name and address on the package he mailed and that when he arrived ir he presented the same ID to obtain the package. He also admitted to exporting personal amounts of narcotics in

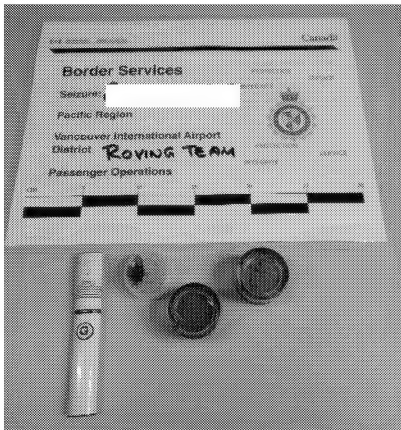
December from Vancouver to and to selling MDMA, LSD, and mushrooms in and around Vancouver. In total, 8.25 grams of cocaine was seized. The RCMP has elected to prosecute.

Also on June 21, **Geoffrey Creech** examined a woman who was also returning from the EDM concert. She arrived on seeking entry for 30 days to sightsee and was referred by **Alan Lu**. At the beginning of the exam, Geoffrey noticed that the woman's purse had a noticeable odour of marijuana. Examination of it revealed a small container containing marijuana residue. The woman was immediately arrested. The remainder of the exam revealed more marijuana residue along with a plastic bag that had a brown crystal-like substance in it. The woman denied any knowledge of it. When Geoff suggested that she was not telling the truth, the woman then confessed, "*It's MDMA.*" A small makeup container was also found to contain marijuana. Upon its discovery the woman said, "*Oh no, I forgot about that.*" Seized were 60 g of marijuana (including containers) and a gram of MDMA. The woman withdrew her application to enter Canada and departed on the next available flight



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While conducting outbound checks on **Rosales** encountered a

June 22, **David** man travelling to

The man said he did not need to report currency as he only had \$1500. He was selected for verification anyway which revealed several needles in his carry-on bag. When asked if he any narcotics on him or in his luggage, he said that he had some marijuana. He was immediately arrested and escorted to Secondary. His checked bag was examined where additional narcotics containing marijuana oil and an electronic cigarette containing marijuana oil residue were discovered.

RCMP attended but declined to pursue charges.

More marijuana shipment from Vancouver

On June 22, while examining outbound courier shipments at DHL, a was selected. The two-pound shipment was



declared as "Tea",

Justin Chow discovered a vacuum-sealed food saver bags and a Ziploc bags containing 305 grams of marijuana.

. Upon opening one

On June 7, **Brian Davidson** was conducting examinations at the Air Canada warehouse when an AC agent alerted them to a shipment of two large boxes that were declared as "dried hemb" (sic). Brian and **Monica Verrelli** examined the shipment of seeds and dried green leaves and could smell the distinct odour of marijuana. Samples were sent to the

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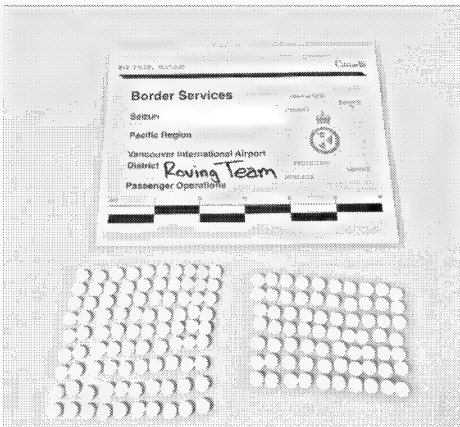


CBSA lab for analysis and on June 23, the samples came back positive for marijuana. A total of 128.6kg was seized.

Then on June 24, **David Williams** and **Monica Verrelli** were alerted to a large box at UPS being sent from Richmond. The invoice declared the contents as a . The cardboard box was X-rayed revealing a hollow metal device with a dark organic image in the base of the box. Dave and Monica removed the device and noticed a false base in the cardboard box and an odour of glue. An incision into the base produced an off-white crystalline powder, which NIK-tested positively for methamphetamine. RCMP declined a controlled delivery so 4.3 kg of methamphetamine was seized as no-case.

Two more going On June 27, while at UPS, **Angela Keith** selected a package destined for , for examination. The package was declared as a wedding photo album (gift) and the exporter gave a phony address (in Richmond. When opened, two vacuum-sealed packages were discovered. Inside were 276 g of marijuana.

On the same day, **Desiree Henderson** selected another UPS package destined for . It was also declared as a wedding photo album (gift). The exporter was the same as the previous seizure, and the same address in Richmond was listed. Inside, two vacuum-sealed packages were discovered, which contained 271 g of marijuana.



On the 28th of June, a man attempting to depart was roved outbound by **Manvir Moore**. The man was asked if he had made a currency declaration, to which he said no, as he had only \$2000. He was extremely nervous and was unable to articulate his plans

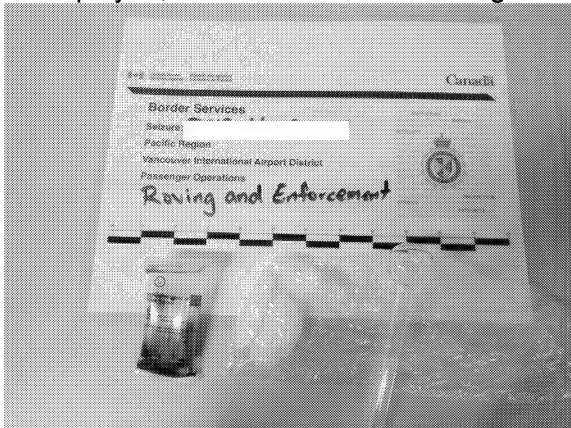
He had numerous pill bottles, and one had a tear in the label where the name portion is displayed. The bottle contained 160 pills of codeine, prescribed to an unknown individual. He was subsequently arrested and escorted to Secondary. RCMP spoke to the man but declined to press charges.

On July 1, the Roving team DARTed resident. for examination. **Ray Louie** selected and said that he went for personal reasons and to attend a wedding. During the examination of



baggage, Ray discovered a square package with brown packaging tape concealed within a pair of blue jeans. Upon discovery of the package the man immediately said it wasn't his and that his friend placed it in his bag. The package was cut open to reveal a layer concealing 940 grams of opium. was arrested for smuggling narcotics. Richmond RCMP took custody of the opium and PAUR was released on a PTA.

Moving on up to July 25, when resident was travelling While the flight was at the final boarding stage, was noticed walking away from the boarding gate and was subsequently stopped by **Manvir Moore**. It was learned that this was her second trip in less than three months, she was travelling on third party-purchased tickets, was unemployed, and had four checked bags for a ten-day trip. She was also sweating profusely.



Examination of her cell phone revealed messages regarding purchasing drugs. was removed from her flight and escorted to Secondary. While being frisked, admitted that she had drugs concealed on her person. During a personal search, narcotics fell to the floor when she removed her underwear. The search was resultant for crystal meth, marijuana, codeine pills and a glass pipe. She was also found to have a driver's licence and credit card belonging to someone else. Thirteen grams of crystal meth, 14.5 grams of marijuana, and two grams of co-deine were eventually seized. JUBBAL was issued a PTA by the RCMP and released.

On July 29, **Lisa Steel** arrested a man for smuggling 63 capsules of morphine A shipment declared as a pair of sport shoes was found to contain the declared shoes as well as nine blister packs with seven capsules in each blister pack. The 63 capsules were seized but RCMP declined to pursue charges.

WEAPONS

On June 19, a man arriving from was roved by **Pepito Daelo**. Examination of his luggage revealed a collapsible baton that also had a Taser/electrified tip. The item was seized as a prohibited weapon. The man said that he leaves the baton in the store for protection.

Also on the 19th, **Franklin Lam** examined a _____ woman and her _____ hus-
 band, who was the subject of a lookout. They were returning from _____ A baggage exam
 resulted in the discovery of a silver nunchaku, which was seized with no terms of release.

On June 6, a YVR janitor found two replica handguns and a replica AR15 in the garbage can outside
 the NEXUS office. The RCMP seized the replica weapons.

PORNOGRAPHY / CHILD ABUSE IMAGES

On July 8, a _____ man _____ told **Asha Chitchot** he was coming to Canada to vis-
 it. When asked if he had been to Canada before, he said he was here in March. When asked why he
 was back, he said he wanted to see Victoria and visit his _____. Asha asked for his phone to look for
 any Canadian reception and found an image with a small boy and a woman acting inappropriately.
 When she showed it to the man, he said, "*WhatsApp video, WhatsApp video*". The man was arrested
 but RCMP declined to pursue charges. The phone was seized, however. Afterward, the man was inter-
 viewed to assessed admissibility, where it became clear that he intended to work in Canada. The man
 said that he would contact a friend _____ who would put him in contact with someone in Canada to
 work _____. An exclusion order was issued and the man's departure was confirmed on _____.
 July 10. The PIL referral was made by **Louie Girouard**.

ARRESTS / WARRANTS

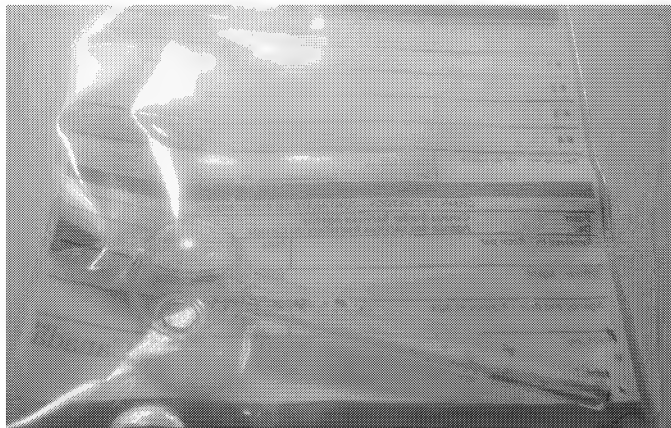
On June 4, **Anis Ali** examined _____ who was returning on _____
 after a five-year absence. Indices checks revealed that _____ was the subject of a Cana-
 da-wide warrant for his involvement in a debit card fraud ring in Montreal and Laval, Quebec. Along
 with various fraud-related charges, _____ was also charged with several firearms-related offenc-
 es. The warrant was confirmed and _____ was arrested by **Sanjit Dhillon**. Richmond RCMP ar-
 rived and took custody of _____.

On the 6th, _____, _____ returned from the _____
 and was referred as both Armed and Dangerous and as an NTC lookout for an outstand-
 ing warrant. Victoria PD confirmed the warrant. **Jeffery Lesage** arrested _____ and transferred
 him to RCMP custody.

On the 8th, _____ was a lookout for an active warrant
 out of Nanaimo under the *Mental Health Act*. The originating agency confirmed the warrant and
 _____ was subsequently arrested by **Bik Garcha**. Richmond RCMP took _____ into
 their custody.

On June 15, _____ returned from India. While
 there, _____ claimed that his uncle forced him into a rehab center where he was held for five months. As
 a result, he missed a scheduled court date. Indices checks showed that he had a warrant for breach of
 probation. Once the warrant was confirmed, **Derek Maksymchuk** arrested _____. He was transferred to
 RCMP who released him on a PTA.

On June 19, **Jeff Toh** was conducting currency verifications outbound and encountered _____
 who said he was going _____ to attend his mother's
 funeral. He later changed his story and said that his mother had passed away a year ago. _____ said
 that he was unemployed and lives in his car. He said that a friend purchased his one-way ticket to _____.



Indices checks revealed that [redacted] had a BC-wide warrant for assaulting a peace officer, obstruction of a peace officer, and breach of probation. He was also a Caution Victor

Jeff, **Manvir Moore** and **Tim Duffy** brought [redacted] into the currency room and, during a search of his carry-on bag, a folding knife was found. In Secondary, a meth pipe with residue was found in his carry-on bag. [redacted] was transferred to the RCMP and CATSA was informed of the breach regarding [redacted] knife.

On June 20, [redacted] sought entry to conduct business and sightsee. GCMS revealed a warrant for removal for a different UCI with the same name and DOB. **Joyce Lawrence** asked [redacted] several times if this was his first time to Canada and each time he answered yes. When asked if he had been to Canada in 1994, he hesitated before saying no. He was then asked if he had made a refugee claim in Canada. He said that it had been a long time ago. Fingerprints on AFIS came back positive for an immigration file and a photo obtained from PRIES was a match for [redacted] confirmed that he had made a refugee claim in 1994 and returned [redacted] a year later without informing CBSA or CIC officials. [redacted] was arrested and his departure was confirmed ([redacted] June 21.

On July 5, [redacted] arrived [redacted] [redacted] He was identified as a Caution Victor at PIL and was escorted Secondary. CPIC listed an active BC-wide warrant for assault. Upon receiving confirmation of the warrant from Surrey RCMP, [redacted] was arrested by **Jaylem Dusanj**. RCMP attended and took custody of [redacted]

The next day, [redacted] arrived ([redacted] and was referred to Secondary due to a BC-wide warrant for theft over \$5000 and failure to appear. Upon receiving confirmation of the warrant, **Richard Burton** arrested [redacted] RCMP attended and took him into custody.

Tell it to the judge. On July 13, [redacted] returned [redacted] Indices checks revealed that he was the subject of an outstanding BC-wide warrant for theft under \$1000 issued by Coquitlam RCMP, who confirmed the warrant. **Tim Duffy** arrested [redacted] and, while being afforded his right to counsel, became belligerent by yelling at the top of his lungs, uttering insults at the officers, and saying that the warrant wasn't for him. He was transferred to the Richmond RCMP.

On the 21st of July, [redacted] returned [redacted] He is a Caution Victor and indices checks were positive for a spousal assault conviction and a BC-wide warrant for B&E and forcible confinement. While confirming the warrant [redacted] Meanwhile, the warrant was confirmed and [redacted] was arrested by **Darren Lal**. Paramedics transported [redacted] to the hospital with two BSOs in tow. RCMP met the officers at the hospital and assumed custody.

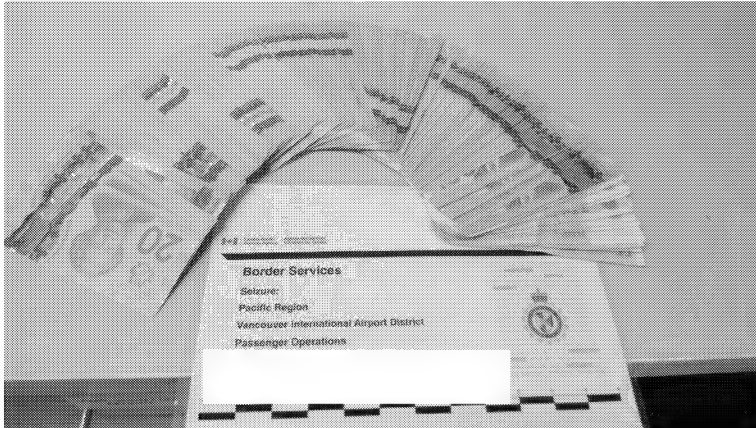
was arrested” just doesn’t sound right. On July 23, returned was the subject of a Canada-wide warrant for sexual assault, assault, and uttering threats. **Andrew Suitner** arrested after Burnaby RCMP confirmed the warrant. He was transferred to custody of Richmond RCMP.

Also on the 23rd, arrived and was referred due to an active warrant for DUI in 2010. The originating agency confirmed the warrant and was arrested by **Bik Garcha**. Richmond RCMP released on a PTA.

CURRENCY / PROCEEDS OF CRIME

On June 6, a man arriving was selected for examination by rover **Amandeep Saini**. While the man was waiting for his bags, K9 **Jiggs** indicated positively for currency. A baggage exam revealed a large amount of currency. Most of it was in his travel pouch, but US\$4053 was concealed under the lining of his carry-on suitcase. A count revealed **\$26,497.09**. When asked why he concealed the money, the man said he did not want to report it. A level two non-report seizure was made due to the concealment.

On June 7, a man and his travelling companion arrived seeking entry for 17 days to sightsee. They were referred for examination by **Alan Lu**. The man could not name a single thing he would do in Canada. Incriminating text messages on the man’s phone advised him to use a false itinerary as well as deceive CBSA regarding his accommodations and return flight. Both persons answered “no” to having excess currency but a count revealed that the main man had **\$18,363.44**. He told **Daniel Lurie** that the money belonged to his travelling



companion. The travelling companion presented such indicators as criminality related

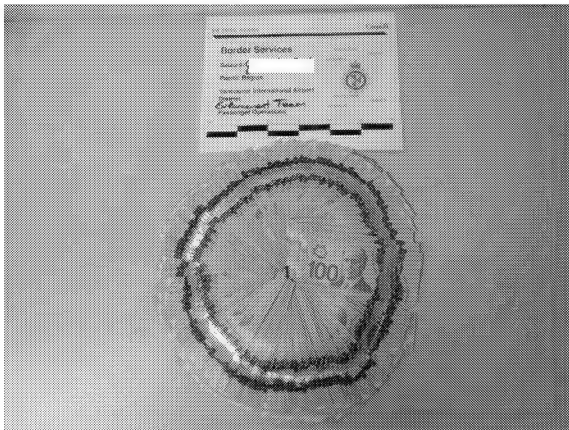
not knowing where the currency was exchanged or how, vague about the purpose of the money, and lying throughout the exam. A total of **\$18,363.44** was seized as suspected proceeds of crime. Both men were found inadmissible and withdrew their applications to enter Canada. They departed that night.

Buried treasure. While conducting outbound checks on June 14, **Ray Louie** encountered a man travelling with his girlfriend. He said that he would be participating in a poker tournament, but he could not explain where the tournament was, how he would find it, or how he would join it if he did find it. He said he was carrying \$9900 but he was found to actually have \$14,600. He and his girlfriend were offloaded and escorted to Secondary. The man first said that he earned the money working for which he earns approximately \$28,000 per year. When it was pointed out that he was travelling with more than half of his annual income, he said that the



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majority of the money was from casino winnings. His cell phone contained pictures of large amounts of currency in vacuum-sealed bags.

Indices checks were positive for PPT, and text messages were found in the man's phone in which he threatened an individual who owed him money. The officers recognized the person being threatened as having been recently reported as a missing person. His **\$14,600** was seized with no terms of release. RCMP questioned the man about the missing person but he was eventually released.

On June 15, a man seeking entry for seven days was roved at the carousel by **Ray Louie**. The man said he had \$7000 which his wife had given him, but found in his man purse were three bundles of Canadian bank notes (**\$30,290**) wrapped in a bank bag. The man said he never looked inside the bag and thought his wife gave him only \$9000. He could not explain how they could have saved that much money when he had only \$1300 in the bank. When Ray suggested calling the man's wife, the man then admitted that a person he met two days earlier (he only knew his surname) had given him the money at airport. He said that his boss's wife had contacted him and asked him to bring \$10,000 for her. After a lengthy examination, the man was able to show a WeChat conversation between them which confirmed the story. As the man had continuously lied to Ray, the currency was seized at level two. The man's friend paid the \$2500 penalty.

By far the largest currency seizure of June was made by **David Rosales**, off a referral by **Mathew Chan** on June 19. A woman and her boyfriend sought entry for 30 days. Dave asked her how much money she was carrying, to which she replied US\$100,000! An examination confirmed the **\$128,780** equivalent inside her carry-on bag. The woman said she won the money at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. When asked why she had failed to declare her currency, she said she had declared it in the U.S. on export but didn't think to declare into Canada unless it was in Canadian dollars. The currency was seized at level one and the woman paid the \$250 terms of release.

On June 30, a man, arrived and was referred as an immigration WF. **Nolan Findlay** examined the man's luggage and found **\$34,070.55** in US and Canadian currency. The man said the money was to pay for tuition for his kids, and for living expenses for his wife who resides in Vancouver. A level one seizure made and the man paid the TOR.

While conducting outbound currency verifications on July 3, **Brennan Loy** roved a woman travelling with her daughter and friend. The woman had not declared any currency. She was selected for verification and the equivalent of **\$12,820.70** was discovered in her possession. She said \$5000 was hers and the remaining was given to her by her boyfriend, however she did not know how much he had given her or exactly how much money she was travelling with. She was observed sending a text to her boyfriend coaching him to corroborate her story by telling him he gave her \$7000. The woman was offloaded and escorted to Secondary. Her story changed

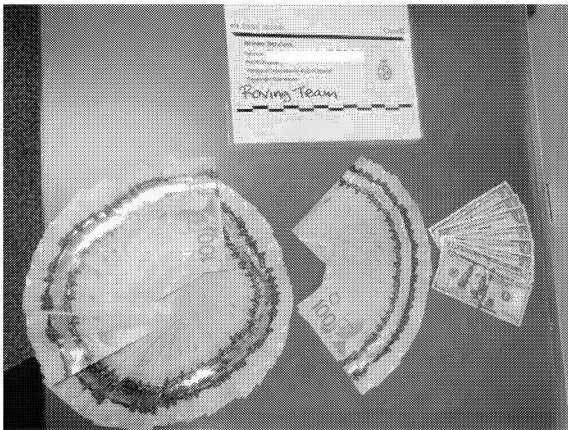
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multiple times about where the money was from. At first she said her boyfriend gave her \$5000 just before dropping her off at the airport and \$5000 was tip money from clients. She then said \$7000 was from her boyfriend, \$4000 was from a girlfriend, and a \$1000 from her bank. She eventually admitted that all of the money was given to her by her boyfriend, and that she suspects he earned it by selling drugs. She said that her boyfriend gives her money weekly, which she puts in a safety deposit box instead of depositing it in the bank to avoid detection. Systems checks determined that the woman's

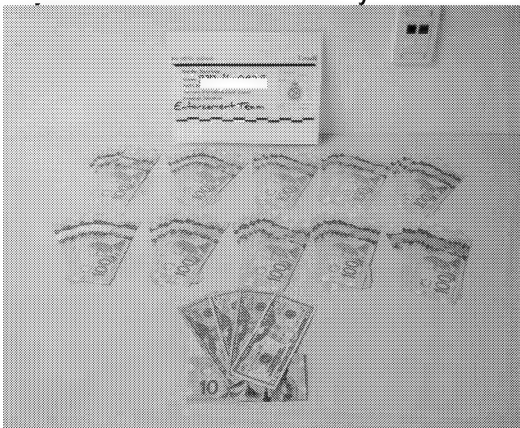
A

level four seizure was made.

Also on the third, a man arrived seeking entry for eight days and was referred as an immigration mandatory. **Scott Kirkland** examined his luggage and found four envelopes containing **\$71,232** in undeclared currency, mostly in dollars. When asked why he did not declare the money, the man claimed it was too dark on the aircraft to fill out the form. The currency was seized at level one and the man paid the suddenly-inadequate \$250 terms of release.

Franklin Lam got this next one on July 5. Franklin spoke to a student arriving on When asked about his E311 card that was marked heavily by the PIL officer, the man said he had drinks on the plane when he was filling it out. He was asked to fill out new E311 and changed his card to declare that he had beef jerky and two cartons of cigarettes. When asked to empty his pockets, the man took out items and also took out a brown paper bag that he quickly threw into his backpack. He said it was \$5000. He asked to hand over his backpack, which actually contained **\$20,154**. The man then said, "Sorry, I lied." The baggage exam also revealed more than 20 packages of pork sausages and duck parts. A level two seizure was made and \$2500 collected. A good referral by **Amritpal Dhani**.

On July 11, **Attila Szalay** roved a man and his son travelling. They had not made a currency declaration. Currency dog **Jiggs** indicated on



the man and when Attila asked him about the cash in his possession, he said that his brother-in-law had given him \$5000 and that he wanted the man to return it to him in When asked why his brother-in-law couldn't take his own money,

When informed that he was being offloaded from the flight, the man said that CBSA could keep his brother-in-law's portion of the money and asked if he could continue on his trip. His request was not granted. During the examination,

The equivalent of **\$10,071.46** was seized at level four.

Then on the 18th, **Arif Jamal** roved a man departing The man said he had less than \$10,000 but was subsequently found to have more than \$13,000. The man

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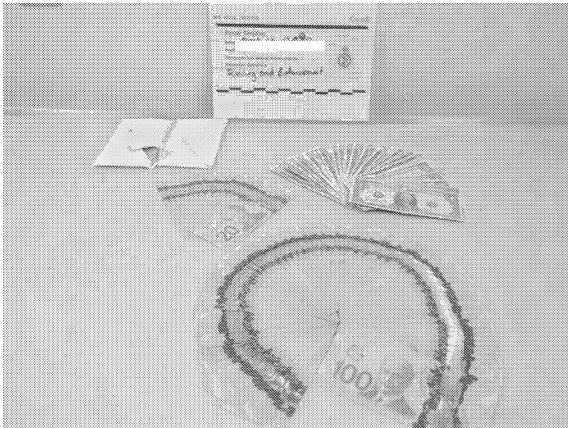
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initially claimed the cash was from the bank, but later said it was from casino winnings. He was removed from the flight and, during the ensuing exam, the man provided numerous inconsistent statements regarding the origins of the funds. By his own admission, he earned \$20,000 last year but could not articulate why he was travelling with more than half of his yearly income. A search through his WeChat revealed voice messages boasting his "growing skills" and numerous images of marijuana plants in various stages of growth. He has minimal savings and is approximately \$12,000 in debt. The equivalent of **\$13,417.67** was seized with no terms of release.

While conducting outbound checks on July 20, **Ray Louie** encountered a man travelling with his girlfriend. The man said that the total amount of currency they had was \$5000 but he was subsequently found to have currency over the reporting threshold. The man was offloaded from the flight and escorted to Secondary where he provided inconsistent stories regarding the origin of his currency, at first saying that he had received money from his mother. His mother, however, denied ever giving her son large amounts of money. The man's electronic devices revealed numerous images depicting large amounts of Canadian money. During the examination, the man claimed the cash wasn't from his mother, but from his friend. He then said that some of the cash was savings and from a car accident settlement. He is unemployed and when questioned about the income he reported, he said, "*I qualify for low income for sure.*" In total, **\$10,046.30** was seized at level four.

Ray Louie continued his streak on July 23 after he encountered a woman travelling with her husband and daughter. The woman said she had only \$5000. She was selected for verification when it was found that she had currency above the reporting threshold. She said she knew she was over the threshold, however thought that her husband's money wouldn't count. During the exam, the woman admitted to earning only \$10,000 last year but could not explain how she was travelling with more than her annual salary.



production of marijuana. She said that she only works once or twice a week. Indices checks revealed her husband is employed and the woman admitted to working at the business. Her **\$11,156.05** was seized with no terms of release.

On July 28, **Attila Szalay** examined a man returning who had declared \$150,000 at PIL. The man claimed that he had won the money playing baccarat and had initially wired down \$100,000 from his bank account with which to play. A verification revealed that

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the man had currency over what he had declared. When questioned about the discrepancy he said that he did not recall the extra money he had on him. He said that he is unemployed and makes his money gambling. When asked to provide proof that the money was wired from his bank account he was unable to do so, saying he does not use online banking. He was

also unable to provide a receipt from the casino for such a large payout. When questioned about the source of the original \$100,000 he said he wired down he refused to answer. He has had previous enforcement with CBSA in which a small amount of marijuana was seized from his vehicle



Other than gambling he was unable to say how he earns his money. Checks . Examination of his

revealed that he was arrested
 media devices revealed the exchange of money with individuals c
 In total, **\$200,227.06** was seized with no terms of release.

SEIZURES

Geoff Lugar leads off on July 2. Geoff examined a woman returning who was free-carded by ABC but referred by FPA team **Ashton** and **Nicole Bussanich**. When Geoff asked



the woman what FPA items she had, she said she had some eggs. An examination of her bags revealed 10 eggs, plus 22 packages of chicken feet, six packages of chicken meat and ten cartons of cigarettes. When asked why she didn't declare the meat or the cigarettes, the woman said that she didn't understand the E311. She had a variety of excuses but became clear that she was just trying to circumvent the process. The cigarettes were seized with no terms of release and the woman paid the AAMP.

This next seizure, on July 3, was the latest in a series of cigarette seizures made by MB. **Rob Guerriero** examined the man. Examination of his luggage revealed the equivalent of 17 cartons of cigarettes. Packages were found within the suitcase lining, inside socks,



and wrapped up in clothing. The man was travelling with his wife and daughter but said that all the cigarettes were his and that he is the only smoker in the family. The cigarettes were obviously for sale as the man had seven different brands of cigarettes.

I don't know any better so I think I'll lie. On July 3, A student presented a package of air waybills, veterinary paperwork and a seller's contract for \$200 for a dog importation. When **Jennifer Wilson** requested proof of payment for the animal, the man became agitated and said that Jennifer had no proof that he didn't pay \$200. Jen suggested that he check his emails for proof of a money transfer. The importer sat in the lobby and returned after a few minutes proudly announcing that he had email proof. He showed a series of texts messages from the exporter stating that the puppy was a gift. It was time-stamped for the current day, three minutes earlier. Jen advised that a text message that he asked the exporter to send did not constitute proof. The importer left and returned later with a bank transfer receipt indicating he had transferred \$2100 to the exporter for the dog. The importer's girlfriend said that the exporter advised them to use the \$200 receipt to avoid the taxes. The importer said that he didn't know any better as it was his first time importing a dog.

On July 22, a [REDACTED] man arrived [REDACTED] with two friends who were referred, but he was free-carded and exited Point. During the examination of the two, it was revealed that some of their luggage belonged to the man who had exited, and they added that the luggage consisted of bottles of [REDACTED].

The man was located and brought into Secondary. His suitcases were found to contain 20 liters of [REDACTED] alcohol. When **Alex Bonnis** asked him why he didn't declare the liquor, the man said that he didn't think he had to since he bought it in an airport. He also added that someone at the [REDACTED] airport told him he could bring 23 kg, but when told that he may have confused that with his maximum baggage weight, he admitted that may have been the case. He was given 1.08 liters and the remainder was seized.

Bradley VanLoo got his first seizure at VIA in a big way on July 24. A [REDACTED] woman who had been the subject of an \$11,305 commodity seizure by **Satvir Chahal** [REDACTED] and declared \$800. She had several pieces of high-value jewellery with her and when asked where they were acquired she said they were from Canada and that she had receipts. The receipts were found to only cover two of the items however. The woman told Brad that her Cartier bracelet was purchased in Canada. Cartier was contacted and confirmed that the bracelet was *not* sold in North America. The woman then said that she was confused. A Van Cleef & Arpels bracelet was undeclared because her mother asked her to bring it to Canada. A Cartier bracelet, Chanel purse, and Moynat purse were undeclared because they were for personal use and were worn [REDACTED] prior to being brought to Canada. A Cartier watch was undeclared because it was purchased in Canada at a duty free store. The total value of the undeclared goods was **\$29,058.92**. Due to the value of the goods they are currently being held for evidence. Due to the previous seizure, the items were seized at level two.

IMMIGRATION

Criminality. On June 1, a [REDACTED] was referred for examination by **Richard Burton**. The man said that he was here to visit his uncle and aunt but, upon further questioning, he admitted to having no reception in Canada and that he was here to plan a "fresh start" for himself. Upon examination,

Andrew Suitner found a stolen [REDACTED] passport and two fraudulent [REDACTED] identity cards. The man initially claimed that he had them made when he was in [REDACTED], however he eventually admitted to buying them for [REDACTED] apiece on the [REDACTED] Dark Network". All documents were seized. The unemployed man had no reception, no fixed address, and had no hotel reservation or means to support himself.

He withdrew his application to enter Canada and was removed to [REDACTED] June 3.



No work permit. The next exclusion on June 1 was a [redacted] unemployed [redacted] man who said that he wanted to sightsee for 70 days. He could not articulate any definite locations that he planned to visit however. He said that he wanted to go to Victoria, but didn't know how to get there. He told **Anthony Shen** that he wanted to go to a beach in Victoria, but didn't know the name of the beach. He said that he wanted to go to "the mountains" but did not know where the mountains were despite having planned his trip for over three months. He could not name any other place that he wanted to visit. A text message from his reception coached the man to delete messages and to tell CBSA that he was coming here for vacation, *not* work. The man's reception was contacted and eventually confessed that the man was coming to work [redacted] was confronted and admitted that he was here to start work immediately.

Criminality. On the 2nd, a [redacted] man arrived [redacted] seeking entry for 65 days to travel to Kelowna to visit friends and sightsee. **Paul Nicholas** found that the man had been found inadmissible at Halifax on May 15, [redacted] He had returned to [redacted] and was returning only two weeks after the refusal. Furthermore, he did not declare his criminal convictions on his eTA or previous visa applications indicate. A deportation order was issued by MD **Joan Leung** and the man departed on [redacted] June 3.

Twenty-two [redacted] nationals examined, refused and removed same day. On June 3, an " [redacted] group of 22 [redacted] nationals sought entry for ten days on what was purported to be a company incentive sightseeing holiday. PIL officers **Mandeep Bahia, Guillaume Cloutier, Darren Dar, Buntly Meldrum** and **Braeden Sinilaid** identified the group as high-risk and referred 20 of the 22 for examination. Although two others were released at Point, they were intercepted and returned to Secondary for examination. The 22 were examined by **Richard Lim, Sarah MacNeil, Jasmine Sandhu, Anthony Shen, Aimee Simkus, Ray Tam** and **Parveen Wahid**. All 22 said that they had no friends or family in Canada, had never been to Canada before, knew little about their tour nor did they have any knowledge of their purported employment [redacted]. All had exactly \$2000 in marked envelopes that they said was given to them, but could not elaborate by whom, when or why. Many showed recent travel [redacted] but they could provide no details about their stay there. Some had been deported [redacted] Their packed belongings were almost identical. Most had criminality, and almost all were tattooed. Their travel pattern and profile mirrored those of previous [redacted]

The entire tour group was found inadmissible and all withdrew their applications to enter Canada. Sixteen departed on [redacted] and six departed on [redacted]

No work permit. On June 6, a [redacted] man arrived [redacted] seeking entry for three weeks to visit a friend [redacted] When **Shannon Parhar** asked about this friend, the man said she was not actually his friend but he knows her through his friend [redacted] The man said he works [redacted]. The man initially claimed that he paid for his tickets but later admitted that they were paid by a third party. He said his friend will pay for his trip while he is here but couldn't explain why a stranger would do this for him. He originally denied that he would be working but later admitted that he will be working as quality control at the same [redacted] He was issued an exclusion order and departed on [redacted] June 7. **Daniel Lurie** made the referral.

Serious criminality. Also on the 6th, based on a joint initiative and the Roving Team, **Attila Szalay** roved

who was seeking entry for 30 days to attend training.

Attila noticed that the man spoke excellent English. When asked if he had ever

been to the

When asked if he had ever been arrested, he said he had not. When confronted with the NCIC checks, he was still adamant that he had never been arrested before and that the information was wrong. He was then fingerprinted, and, while awaiting results, he then admitted that he had in fact been convicted and served 10 years in prison. He had an admissibility hearing on June 9 where a deportation order was issued for 36(1)(c). He was removed later that evening.

No work permit. On June 7, a resident planned to visit his friends in Vancouver and Toronto for 30 days. Upon examination of the man's bags, **John Owens** found documents relating to the man's work and education. When asked why he needed such documentation when he was on vacation, the man said

that he did not want to leave such important documents at home when no one was there. His media contained a conversation with a friend he said was his reception in Toronto. Messages showed that he

planned to remain in Canada and work When confronted with these messages the man could only say that it was up to John what happened to him next. John decided that he should be excluded.

No work permit. On the 8th, a man sought entry for 90 days to look for a school, however he was unable to name a school that he would like to visit. **Marshall Wirawan** examined the man's phone and discovered a chat between him and his reception getting instructions on what to say and not say

to CBSA. The chat also revealed that the man will be working in Calgary When confronted with this information, the man initially denied it but later admitted to it. MD **Naush Mahmood** issued him an exclusion order and the man was removed the same night. The referral was by **Carlo Disini**, on one of his first days on PIL.

No work permit. On June 13, a man told **Jeremy Doiron** that he was visiting for 180 days to attend his daughter's graduation and would spend the remainder of his time caring for her. Since September 2014 the man has spent two six-month periods in the greater Toronto area. When asked to

account for this time he said that he only cooked for his daughter and went grocery shopping. In the man's cell phone was a message indicating that he was working in Canada. When asked why he would

have such a message, the man admitted that he had worked in a restaurant in Ontario. He said that he no longer had that job but would look for similar employment. He also admitted that his wife was working in Waterloo with no authorization. The man was excluded and left on June 14. Information on his wife was forwarded to GTEC.

Non-compliance. Also on the 13th, **Birgit DeJong** referred one of those people that make this job so interesting. A man told her he has been here for 180 days to see the west coast of Canada and the U.S. In Secondary, the man was and restless (pacing back and forth) while being examined. He had difficulty remembering and tended to drift off-topic when questioned. He said he heard voices while working. He said the voices were aggressive and vulgar towards him. When **Domenic Bruzzese** asked him if the voices were coming from co-workers or people around him, the man said, "no, in my mind". He told Bruiser that he used to have electric/sonar-like powers that he used a few times but no longer practices with them. A baggage exam revealed documents that showed him being diagnosed with Type-2 diabetes, high blood pressure and schizophrenia. Also found were bank receipts, letters, banking account booklets and bills. The man said he brought them to Canada because he had nowhere to store them. He then admitted coming to Canada to live permanently. His behaviour became more erratic so paramedics were called and assessed the man as having extremely high blood sugar levels. He was treated at Richmond Hospital and released. At an admissibility hearing on June 16, duty counsel conceded the allegation of A41(a)xA20(1)(b) and the presiding member issued an exclusion order. The man departed, under escort, on June 17.

No work permit. Still on the 13th, a man arrived from [redacted] using a recently-issued passport, visa and airline tickets. He carried about \$600 in cash with no access to additional money. He was also uncertain of where he would stay. **Poonam Sandhu** referred the man to Secondary where **Will Tong** asked the man directly if he was here to work, but he denied it. A search of his cellphone revealed conversations about starting work in [redacted] June 15. He was confronted with this and admitted that he was here to work. He was excluded by MD **Preet Bhuller** and departed on June 14.

No work permit. It's unusual to find citizens working illegally but we had one on June 16. **John Kirkbride** referred a woman who arrived [redacted] and said she was here for 180 days to visit her boyfriend. She last left Canada on March 30, and had been in Canada on extensions for over a year and a half. She was not able to explain to **David Lee** what she did besides hanging out with her boyfriend. Examination of her electronics revealed she may have worked illegally during her previous stay. Through interviewing, she conceded that she had worked without a work permit. She told DQ that if she had not been examined, she would have continued to do the same work. An exclusion order was issued and the woman departed on June 17.

No work permit. On June 19, **Rachel Budden** referred a man who arrived from [redacted]. He said he had been in [redacted] for one year [redacted] and was now here for 89 days to visit a friend he met in [redacted]. He said he would travel to Kelowna and then to Montreal, where he would depart [redacted]. He identified his reception as Mike, but he could not provide any other information about this person. He had only \$50 with him. He presented an itinerary for his return flight, however **William Itakura** later discovered that he had only booked the flight, not paid for it. Through further questioning he admitted he was here to [redacted] in Kelowna. An exclusion order was issued and the man departed the same day.



No work permit. A _____ man _____ June 20 sought entry for one month to visit his uncle on the Salt Spring Island. The man had only _____ (\$755) in his possession. Through further examination he admitted to **Preet Bhuller** that he was coming to Canada to work for his uncle's company for six months. He was excluded and departed the same day

No work permit. Also on the 21st, _____, a _____ man told **Ciara Chin** that he was here for 180 days to attend an exhibition | _____. In Secondary, the man gave **Pam Smith** a letter of invitation that had been photocopied and obviously altered with an incorrect address and telephone number for a contact. When the number was phoned it was no longer in service. The man's reception didn't answer the phone either. His cellphone revealed good-bye messages from friends and family and he had texted several people that he intended to find work in Canada. MD **Richard Lim** issued him an exclusion order.

No work permit. On June 22, a _____ woman _____ sought entry for 60 days to visit friends in Oliver. She said they paid for her trip, will provide her accommodations and show her around. Despite doing all that for her, she was unable to provide any details about them. She told **Nikki Bassi** that her mother and her friend are looking after her four children while she is away. She said that a man | _____ would take her to Oliver but she didn't have his contact info. Her cell phone revealed that her boyfriend is residing in Canada. The woman said he is on a work permit : _____ and was going to help her find work | _____. An exclusion order was issued by MD **Julia Prinja** with same-day departure.

No work permit. A phone message was the downfall of a _____ woman who arrived on (_____ June 23 to supposedly visit her boyfriend. **Nathan Klement** found that the woman overstayed on her previous trip and was issued an exclusion order which expired on May 11. When asked about her employment, the woman said she sells clothing but could not provide the phone number for the store where she worked. She was also unable to provide her boyfriend's last name or phone number, saying she would have to look them up in her phone. In her notebook she had written _____. She brushed this off by saying that her son was trying to teach her English. There was also a message from her boy-

friend reading,
 and departed on

Aha, so that's the answer. The woman was excluded by MD **Preet Bhuller** that night.

No work permit. A man off

June 27 said he planned to visit his mother and sister. However, **Ivan Ho** found messages on his phone pertaining to staying and working in Canada. He was confronted with these messages and admitted that he planned to work in Canada and was unsure when he would return. He also had access to only \$20 and arrived on a third party-paid one-way ticket.

No work permit. Two men seeking entry to sightsee for 14 days were removed during a DART. June 28 and examined by **Brennan Loy** and **Pepito Daelo**. The two arrived on one-way tickets purchased four days prior to the trip and they had hotel reservations for only seven days. Both men are

unemployed but claim they attend university. They had little money and no specific plans, other than seeing Whistler and Vancouver. Although they said they had no reception, one person was found to have a Canadian number in his phone that was IMS positive for illegal workers. When questioned about work, he admitted to coming to work and that he could find work by calling the number. Both men were excluded.

No ARC. On the 30th, a man sought entry for 35 days to visit family and friends, saying that this was his first time to Canada. Indices checks revealed that he had made a refugee claim in Canada in 2001 which was found not valid. He was removed later that year. When **Mandeep Bahia** confronted the man

with this information he was adamant that it was not him. When informed that he was going to be fingerprinted, the man said we did not have the right to fingerprint him. He attempted to walk out of the AFIS room but was told that he would be arrested if he did not comply. He complied but then said, "*If I go back can I go back to a different country?*" When fingerprints confirmed that he was a failed refugee claimant, the man conceded it but then said that he wanted to make another refugee claim. Sorry, you're not eligible. He was issued a deportation order and departed that night.

No work permit. On July 8, a woman arrived as part of a tour group. **David Rosales** noticed her as she was younger than everyone else in the group. During an examination Dave discovered that the woman had shipped a box to Burnaby containing clothing, soup and cosmetics but she had no real explanation for shipping these goods to Canada. Further examination revealed she had shipped another box to the shortly before visiting there for two months. The exam also revealed a BC phone number

The woman was excluded and her same-day departure was confirmed.



Canada Border
Services Agency

Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada



No work permit. On the 9th, a woman arrived and told PIL officer **Chelsea Cairns** that she was here for 18 days but when **Mandeep Bahia** contacted the woman's husband, he said she would only be here four or five days and then return. When asked the explain, the woman said she has an open relationship with her husband and that he "*knows what's going on.*" A baggage exam revealed her certification in massage and meditation and the woman's cell phone revealed that she was here to work. She remarked, "*It's better than picking fruit.*" The woman's reception is unemployed, has mental health problems, lives with his parents and cannot support the woman. She was excluded and purchased her own ticket

No work permit. Also that day, a man told PIL officer **Levi Danielski** that they were here for 27 days to visit friends and for tourism. They had no plans and booked only a three-night stay in a hostel. The man and was travelling with his equipment which he said was for a friend. However, **Heather Zentner** found emails showing that the man had bookings in Vancouver. and the manager of the confirmed that he would be working for the week. The man said he didn't think of applying

for a work permit because
Joyce Lawrence and departed on ,

aren't taken seriously
the same day.

The man was excluded by MD

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No work permit. Later that day, a [redacted] man with a really bad cover story arrived [redacted] seeking entry for 10 days to sightsee. He said that he had a wife and three children but said that his wife could not accompany him because she was working. He told **Patrick Ridgley** that he would see the

Vancouver museum and parks and stay at the Patricia Hotel. He was unable to name anything else he would do for the 10 days, however. His media revealed a letter in which the man said that he would find cash jobs and do whatever it takes to work in Canada. When questioned about this letter, the man admitted that he was going to work illegally and that it was too difficult for him to obtain a work permit. He said that he also did this in [redacted] 2007. The man was excluded and went back [redacted] on July 13. **Sandy Wan** had referred the man from PIL.

No work permit. Another [redacted] man was excluded on July 16. The [redacted] man sought entry for 32 days to sightsee and visit a friend. **Dylan Sanghara** referred the man to Secondary. **Daniel Lurie** found a BC phone number in the man's iPhone WhatsApp that was different than his reception's. Messages with

the person holding that phone number said that they have found the man [redacted] work starting July 17. Daniel confronted the man with this and he started crying (the [redacted] man, not Daniel). He admitted that his brother is in Canada working illegally and that he intended to work as well. He departed on [redacted] that day and PRIES was advised of the brother.

No work permit. **Dylan Sanghara** referred another exclusion on July 17. In Secondary, the [redacted] man told **Brad VanLoo** that he was coming to Canada for tourism. He had little money, his return ticket was bought the previous day, and he left his family [redacted] because his wife has asthma. Further questioning

revealed that the man worked [redacted] illegally for five years. He denied coming to Canada to work but eventually admitted that he was here to meet someone who would find him a job [redacted] An exclusion order was issued and the man left on [redacted] July 18.

Locally-issued passport gives away illegal worker. On July 20, a [redacted] man arrived [redacted] seeking entry for 60 days. He said he was previously here in 2006 and early 2016. He just left Canada in May so when **William Itakura** asked why he was returning so soon, he said he was not able to do everything he

wanted to during the last trip. His passport was issued in March [redacted] but a search of his passage history didn't show any entries in 2015 or 2016. When asked to explain this he admitted that he entered Canada in 2006 and remained until May 2016. Information on file indicated

he is wanted for dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death while impaired. He said he fled after being accused of this crime but returned there after discovering the laws had changed and he could no longer be tried for this offence. An examination of his cellphone revealed photos of him engaged in trade work. He admitted to and doing other work however he denied he was returning to resume employment. A conversation in the man's phone, however, showed his employer in Canada requesting he return to continue working. He was excluded and returned on the same day.

No work permit. A man arrived July 21 seeking entry for six months to "travel around". **Rachel Budden** sent him back. When **Gabriela Matamoros** asked about his plans, he said that he wanted to see snow (in July), and see the rivers and the mountains. Other than naming Whistler, he could not give any other information. Further investigation revealed that he was intending to work in Canada. It was also discovered that he had been refused entry two weeks earlier for intending to work there illegally. He was excluded and was to depart on that night.

AGRICULTURE

Wild guess costs man \$400. On June 3, a man returning 1 was intercepted by FPA detector dog team **Nicole Bussanich** and **Ashton**, and sent to Agriculture



for examination. When **Marc Raymond** asked the man the three baggage questions, the man explained that one piece of luggage was his mother's and that he wasn't aware of its contents. The man had made a nil declaration so **Marc** asked the man how he was able to fill out the card when he was not aware of the contents. He replied that he took a wild guess and answered "no" to every question. Inside were 2.8 kg of meat. An \$800 AAMP was issued and the man paid \$400.

On June 4, a man arriving answered "no" to the FPA question on his E311. Detector dog team **Ashton** and **Nicole Bussanich** disagreed and referred him to storefront for examination. After finding pork rinds and dried fish in one of the man's bags, **Chris Hudgins** asked the man why he had not declared the food. His reply was that his food was "dried and not fresh". The second bag was opened and the first two items found were fresh meat and mangoes, negating his previous excuse. In total 5.5 kg of pork sausages and rinds, three boxes of beef broth and three boxes of chicken broth were found. An AAMP was issued and the 50% reduced penalty was paid.

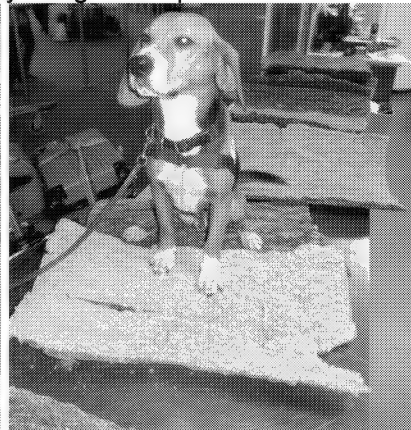
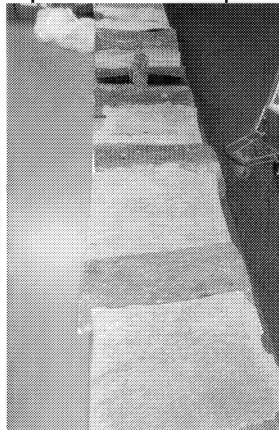
Nicole Bussanich and **Ashton** referred yet another AAMP on June 4. A woman, who denied having any agriculture products, was referred. When **Julia Prinja** found meat in the first bag she examined, the woman said that she forgot she had meat and that this was the only bag that had meat. Upon examination of the second bag, she grabbed a plastic bag containing duck eggs and beef/pork products out of the luggage and placed it behind her on the cart, saying that it wasn't food and it wasn't a concern as it was a gift from a friend to her son. She was assessed a \$1300 AAMP and paid the reduced penalty of \$650.

On the 11th, a _____ man _____ was a canine hit from DDS **Marc Raymond**. The man was asked three times if he had meat products and each time he responded no. Upon opening the luggage, **Ivan Ho** found 3.2 kilos of pork. The man's excuse was that it was not his, but for a friend.



On June 20, a _____ woman returning _____ declared \$200 for clothing and 200 cigarettes. Upon examination, **Martina Li** found 2.1kg of pork stuffed pastries, 720g of pork sausage stuffed eggs, and 150g of beef tendons in the woman's luggage. When asked why she didn't declare the food products, the woman said it was because they were all commercially packaged. She was issued a Notice of Violation and paid \$400.

On the 22nd, DD **Ashton** indicated on the luggage of a _____ man who had arrived on _____ At Agriculture storefront, eight rolls of tree bark measuring 26" by 28" were discovered in the man's baggage. When unpacked, a beetle escaped but it was quickly caught and placed in the



freezer for later examination. When questioned, the man told **Ian Patterson** that the bark was for a friend in Vancouver. The man's reception said the bark was for her pond cover as it looked more natural. A very serious AAMP was issued.

A _____ woman neglected to pick up her luggage after arriving _____ June 23 so it was brought into Secondary by an Air Canada agent for clearance. Upon X-raying the baggage, **David**

Lee noticed an anomaly and an examination revealed 7.5 kg of meat items. The owner was brought into Secondary for questioning, whereupon she confessed to not having declared the meat on her

E311 card. An AAMP was issued and paid the same day.

Another delayed bag AAMP on June 27. A woman failed to pick up her luggage and was escorted in by an airline agent to clear her luggage. The woman said she did not have any meat products in her luggage but an examination by **Ramandeep Bains** revealed approximately four kg of chicken feet and dried pork. An NOV was issued and penalty paid.



On July 1, a man returning was selectively referral. Before **Geoffrey Creech** began the baggage exam, the man admitted that he had undeclared beef jerky. In his suitcase were two packages of beef jerky weighing 2.76 kg. When asked why he didn't declare the meat, the man said, "*I did not think it would be a problem,*" which doesn't really answer the question. After paying the \$400 reduced penalty he asked Geoff if he could get the meat back.

Two residents returned July 10 and were referred by DDS Team **Nicole Bussanich and Ashton**. An exam by **Heather Zentner** revealed 12 garlic bulbs, 0.631kg of

sausages, and 4.18kg of bacon. An \$800 serious penalty was issued and the 56-year-old man paid the reduced penalty of \$400.

Twenty-five years ago...from the *VIA Intelligence Bulletins* of June 1991 and July 1991

The lone heroin seizure of June was the result of a team effort by the VIA enforcement team. While profiling the JL 12 passenger manifest, Andrew Chin and Mark Northcote noted a female travelling alone from BKK to MEX. She also had the only English-sounding surname on a flight filled with Mexicans and Japanese. A further check with JAL produced a New York City contact. When JAL arrived, the woman was located in the transit lounge and was interviewed by Fiona Cooke and George Morris. She was a 28 year old black female, U.S. citizen and a resident of Midland, Texas. She claimed she was a hair-stylist and part-time bartender and had been in Thailand for two weeks on holidays. Despite the fact that she only had about \$100 in baht and no credit cards, she said she was going to spend a week in Mexico, even though she knew no one there and didn't know where she would be staying. Andrew Chin, Mark Northcote and myself examined her suitcase inside the hold of the aircraft but found no contraband. The woman, _____ was detained and brought down to Customs and into the search room. The P.S. was negative but an internal carry was suspected so _____ was arrested and taken to Richmond General for a medical exam. An x-ray showed no drugs in her stomach but a pelvic exam produced a condom containing 50 grams of heroin which _____ had inserted.

While observing the off-loading of KLM flight 681, Enforcement Team members Andrew Chin and Mark Northcote noticed an untagged B737 wheel assembly. As KLM doesn't fly 737s into Canada it was determined to be unmanifested cargo. A \$400 penalty was applied against KLM.

Dave Saunders somehow managed to seize a car on July 21st, although I unfortunately don't have any of the details.

For enquiring minds, we have the UNTOLD story about the _____ coke seizure. Over at Federal Express on July 23rd, Patty Gilfillan selected an envelope addressed to actor _____ at the Le Meridien Hotel which was sent from an individual in Beverly Hills. It was manifested as business documents valued at \$1000. Inside the package was some sheet music and inside the sheet music were two envelopes, one inside the other. In the inner envelope was a plastic baggie containing a white powder which tested positive for cocaine. The dope was turned over that morning to the Airport Drug Squad who made the arrest at the hotel. The gross weight was 4.5 grams.

The largest seizure of July was attributed to Enforcement Team Supt. George Morris. Randy Price received a call in the office on July 27 from a man complaining of an American going around to various stores selling cut-rate jewellery. Assuming that the jewellery was either smuggled or stolen, we called the Vancouver Police and had two plainclothes officers meet George, Mark Northcote, Andrew Chin and myself on Main Street. The aspiring salesman was located on the second floor of a local jeweller. When he was questioned, the man said he had arrived from California earlier that day but that the jewellery (which filled his briefcase) was from Canada. We took the man to a Vancouver residence to interview the alleged manufacturer. This person said he does make jewellery but he knew nothing of the jewellery in the salesman's possession. After we found and searched the man's car, the police turned over the investigation of the matter to us. He kept changing his story about the origin of the jewellery but it became apparent that the goods were smuggled across the border that day. The man was brought to the airport and the jewellery was seized. Faced with the seizure of his jewellery, car and possible criminal charges, the man made a full written statement admitting to smuggling the jewellery into Canada that same day. End of story? Not quite. The following day the complainant phoned back and said the salesman had sold a considerable amount of jewellery before we caught up with him. George, Mark and Rooney went back to investigate. While interviewing a jeweller on Main Street, who should walk into the store but the same salesman. He said he just dropped in to say hello. Yeah, right. As it turned out, the salesman had left a quantity of jewellery in the man's store on consignment. This jewellery was also seized and added to the original seizure. In all 338 pieces were taken with the appraised value being in the neighbourhood of \$155,000 before backing-off. Considering that this is a totally new area for us, this seizure was pulled off with surprisingly few hitches.

Just another day at the office

Domestic tobacco interdiction at Cornwall. On June 7, a vehicle was referred for examination. In the trunk, eleven bags of loose tobacco with a total weight of approximately 400 lbs were discovered.



Ontario Provincial Police took custody of the subject, tobacco and the vehicle. (

Firearms and level four currency seizures at the Ambassador Bridge. On June 8, two residents were sent for examination after making a wrong turn. Upon examination, two boxes containing firearms were found. In the vehicle, BSO David Kocsis also found a grocery bag in the back seat



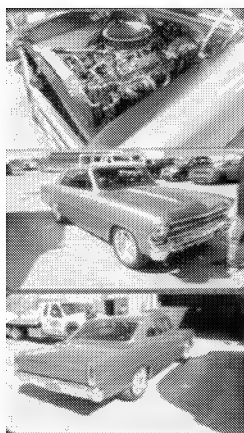
of the vehicle containing US\$40,010 undeclared. An AK-47, an AR-15, two prohibited magazines, and US\$40,010 were seized with no terms of release.

Huge firearms seizure at Abbotsford-Huntingdon. On June 9, a male and female, en route to Alaska in their truck and trailer, were referred to secondary examination. During examination of the vehicle, ammunition was discovered.



The male,

admitted that there were numerous firearms in the vehicles. He was immediately arrested. Examination of the truck and trailer resulted in seizure of five handguns, eight rifles, two shotguns and multiple prohibited magazines. Smuggling and unauthorized possession charges were filed by CIS.



1967 Nova undervalued by \$57,192 at Blue Water Bridge. On June 15, a vehicle was referred to secondary for a B15 and selective examination for value for duty on a 1967 Chevrolet Nova declared at US\$20,000. During the examination it was discovered that the amount paid for the vehicle was actually \$82,862. The driver, _____ was arrested and EI/OD attended to lay criminal charges. The term of release for the vehicle was \$31,455.60. _____ was released on a \$500 recognizance and EI/OD will be issuing a summons to the father who was a co-offender, and the actual owner of the Nova.

Port runner at Cornwall. On June 18, a driver who declared at primary that he was arriving domestically was referred for secondary examination. The driver did not comply, instead accelerating toward the exit and avoiding the gate by driving off the road. He was then observed crashing through the gate at the toll before returning to Cornwall Island. The vehicle drove off at a high rate of speed in the CBSA compound, drove on the grass near the CBSA employee parking lot, into the oncoming lane, through an intersection with a stop sign without stopping and finally driving through the toll area, crashing through two gates before returning to Cornwall Island. Akwesasne Police recovered the vehicle at the arena on Cornwall Island and towed it back to the POE.

Examination revealed an odour of tobacco although no contraband was found.

Unusual travellers at Osoyoos. On June 22, Inland Enforcement was notified by Midway RCMP that a family _____ who eluded examination, were intercepted on a property just south of Kelowna, after the homeowner of the property found the family. There were two adults and three children under the age of six, as well as six dogs with puppies, and 20 rabbits. Their truck was packed with household effects as was the horse trailer they were towing. The family said that they had not reported at a POE when crossing the border as their telephone GPS took them down a dirt road. They said they were coming to Canada for a one-week vacation, however the amount of belongings with them was not consistent with their story. RCMP also advised that they found the family had a machete, a BB/pellet gun and a crossbow. The family was escorted to the Osoyoos POE by RCMP. They were travelling from _____ to visit family near _____ but said they wanted to camp in Canada for up to a week. Documents showed that one of the daughters had been discharged from a hospital in _____ two days earlier for pneumonia but they could not explain why they didn't return home or postpone their trip to Canada. The family was found inadmissible for non-compliance. They withdrew their application to enter Canada and returned.

Undeclared passenger at Abbotsford-Huntingdon. On June 22, a vehicle with four _____ citizens was referred for examination at Abbotsford-Huntingdon POE. During the exam, BSO Tyson Shaw located a jar with white crystals in the driver's door. He approached the driver and asked him if there was anything in the vehicle of concern. The driver then said that there was a person hiding in the back of the truck. BSO Shaw, A/Superintendent Michael Medford and BSO Dustin Jenkins attended the secondary area and drew their duty firearms to low ready, calling out to the person in the back of the truck. The person complied and was arrested, placed in cuffs and escorted to cells. Criminal Investigations at-

tended the POE and interviewed the driver as well as the man who was hiding in the back of the truck. Both were held in custody. The other three passengers were released from detention but were all criminally inadmissible. Allowed to leave offers were accepted by all three passengers. Crown approved IRPA charges of misrepresentation against

Tobacco seizure at Rainbow Bridge. On June 26, a woman and her daughter were referred for a selective examination. The examination of their 2007 Pontiac Montana was resultant for 93 pounds of chewing and loose tobacco. The tobacco was concealed in suitcases and duffel bags in the



back seat and trunk area of the minivan. was arrested and Criminal Investigations Division subsequently charged her under several sections of the *Customs Act* including S.159: Smuggling, S.153(a): False Statements and S.153(c): Evasion of Duties. was released on a Promise to Appear.

Vehicle seizure at Ambassador Bridge. On July 3, arrived at the Ambassador Bridge driving a 2007 Aston Martin V8 Vantage bearing a dealer plate. told Primary officer Anmar Shabo that he was visiting family in Toronto for one week and declared \$100 worth of goods. When asked about the plate and car, said he bought the car two days previously and would not be leaving it in Canada. The secondary exam revealed text messages



that he was bringing the car into Canada for his son. was arrested and afforded his rights. Criminal Investigations Division attended and was charged under Section 12 (non-report), 159 (smuggling) and 153(c) (evasion of duties and taxes) under the *Customs Act*. The VFD was pegged at \$52,328.70 and terms of release were assessed at \$31,397.22. was released on \$500 recognizance but was unable to pay the terms of release of the vehicle so it was transferred to the Queen's warehouse.

Port Runner and Use of Force at Pacific Highway. On July 5, at approximately 1445, a male approached primary. During a trunk check, indications of weapons were discovered. The man was asked to step outside of the vehicle and initially was compliant. However, upon detention, a firearm was seen on the man by a BSO. BSOs drew and pointed their firearms. The man jumped into his vehicle and fled north-bound. The RCMP were on site for another matter and pursued the man into Canada. During the pursuit the man backtracked towards the US. USCBP took custody of the man.

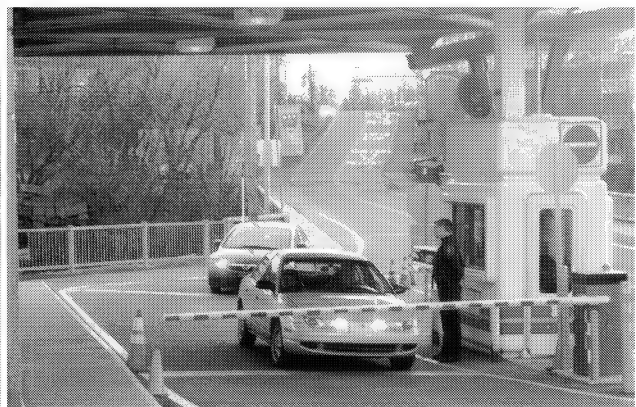
Bedwell Harbour alcohol seizure. On July 3, a 67' sailboat with three passengers was boarded for examination. The captain, a national, declared 24 bottles of wine, 30 bottles of beer and 10 bottles of liquor. Upon opening the storage doors, a number of bottled wine in boxes were discovered. When questioned about the undeclared wine, the captain said he did not declare it because he thought we would "steal" it as they had too much. When asked to clarify he said he thought we would confiscate the wine. The captain was told the wine would be seized with no terms of release. Total amount seized: 130 bottles red wine, 29 bottles white wine and 15 bottles champagne. Criminal Investigations may pursue charges.

Arrest for motor vehicle theft at Douglas. On July 24, a female in possession of what was believed to be a stolen 2016 Mercedes-Benz was fleeing Washington State Patrol. Upon arriving at the port, the stolen vehicle was involved in a minor collision with a vehicle waiting in the northbound NEX-US lane. The US State Patrol officer broke the driver's side window to make contact with the driver. was compliant in exiting the vehicle and was arrested for motor vehicle theft. No CBSA duty firearms were drawn, however one Washington State Patrol member had his rifle drawn to low ready. As was facing several charges in the US, the RCMP elected not to pursue charges. was allowed to withdraw her entry to Canada and the stolen vehicle was released to US authorities.

The world's 10 longest borders

Canada – United States: (8,891 km) – Canada, the world's second largest country in terms of geographic area, and the United States (fourth largest) share the longest international border between any two countries.

Despite the fact that parts of the International Boundary cross through mountainous terrain or heavily forested areas, everyone passing through is checked. The actual number of American and Canadian border security personnel is classified.



Following the 9/11 episode, security along this border was dramatically tightened by both nations, which remain actively involved in extensive tactical and strategic intelligence sharing.

US and Canadian citizens who own property adjacent to the border are required to report construction of any physical border crossing on their land to their respective governments, and this is enforced by the International Boundary Commission.



Where required, fences or vehicle blockades are used. All persons crossing the border are required to report to the respective customs and immigration agencies in each country.



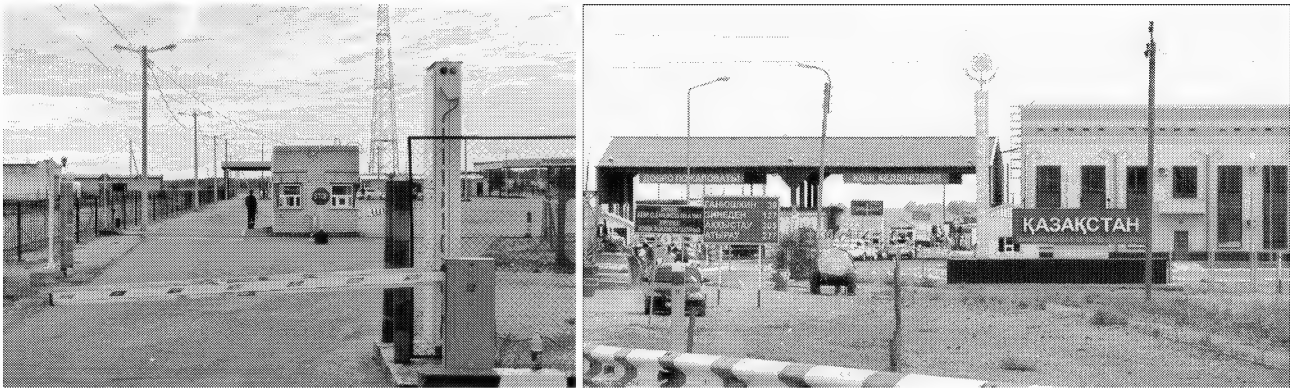
In remote areas, where staffed border crossings are not available, there are hidden sensors on roads and also scattered in wooded areas near crossing points and on many trails and railways, but there are not enough border personnel on either side to verify and stop coordinated incursions.

In more recent years, Canadian officials have complained of drugs, cigarettes, and firearms smuggling from the United States, while the American authorities have complained of drug smuggling from Canada.

In July 2005, law enforcement personnel arrested three men who had built a 360-foot tunnel under the border between British Columbia and Washington. According to a July 22, 2006 CNN report, they intended to use this secret tunnel for smuggling marijuana.

Russia – Kazakhstan: (6,846 km) – Russia, the largest country in the world, has a total length of land borders of just over 20,000 km. It shares these frontiers with 14 countries. Its longest land border, which is also the world's second longest land border, is with Kazakhstan, the world's 9th largest country. The border had assumed its modern shape in 1930, and became an international border upon the dissolution of the USSR in 1991.

Kazakhs, Russians and other ethnic groups (Germans, Tatars and Ukrainians) live on both sides of this border.

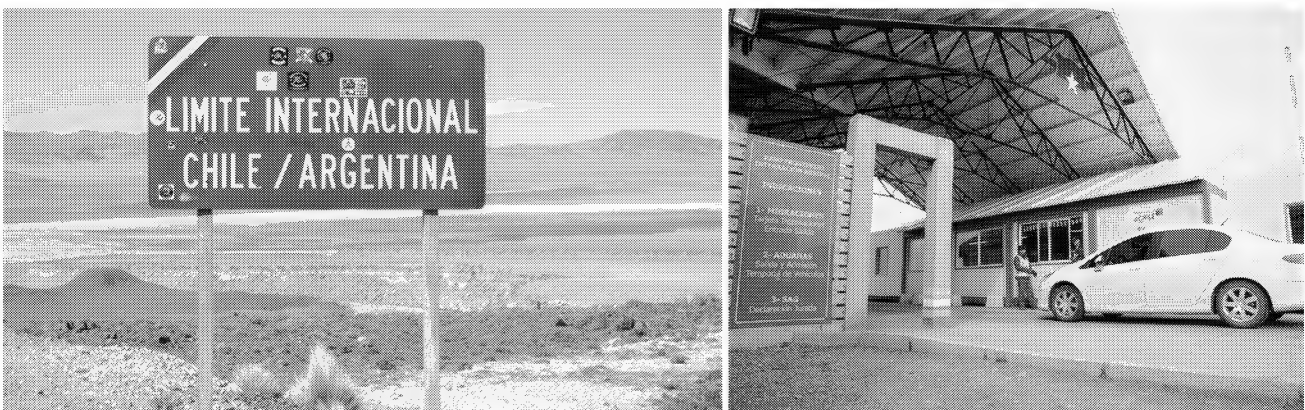


Kazakhstan's lengthy, porous border with Russia has remained an ongoing security concern, and various cooperative security measures have sought to bring together the border services and, by definition, the intelligence agencies of both countries.

Argentina – Chile: (5,150 km) – Argentina and Chile share the third longest border in the world.

Although gaining their independence during the South American wars of liberation, during much of the 19th and the 20th century relations between the countries were chilled as a result of disputes over the border in Patagonia.

The Border Treaty of 1881 established the line of highest mountains dividing the Atlantic and Pacific watersheds as the border between Argentina and Chile. In 1902, war was avoided when British King Edward VII agreed to mediate between the two nations. He cleverly established the current Argentina-Chile border in Patagonia by dividing many disputed lakes into two equal parts.



During the 1990s, their bilateral relations had improved dramatically, helping both countries to settle most of their remaining disputes.

China – Mongolia: 4,677 km – China is the third largest country in the world, and with a total land borders of 22,147 km shared with 16 countries. China's longest border is with its northern neighbor, Mongolia.

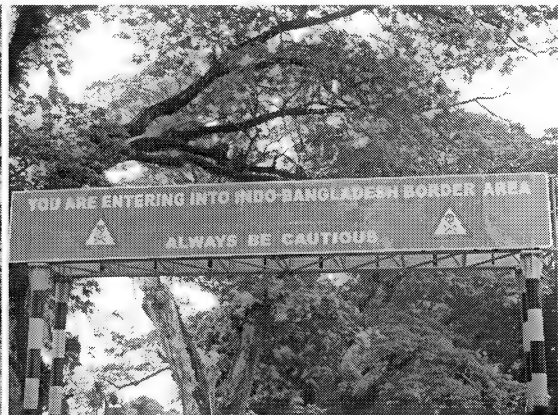
During the Cold War, the Mongolian Border and Internal Troops Administration was in charge of 15,000 troops responsible for border patrol, for guard duties, and for immigration control. Border defence troops were equipped with fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, tanks, motor vehicles and motorcycles, radio communications equipment, engineering equipment, and automatic weapons. Mongolia's national borders and the guarding of these is an important part of Mongolia's security, and, as Mongolian people consider the country's inviolable national frontiers to be a core interest, this is an inseparable component within national security keeping.

Mongolia's entire frontiers are safeguarded by 300-350 permanent border guard units and, besides these, over 3,000 frontier personnel work in groups of three maintaining battle preparedness. The General Department for Border Guarding is currently the Government's agent appointed to carry out its functions in accordance with the State's policy on 'Frontier Guarding' in Mongolia, and is responsible for implementing the existing laws and regulations on border guarding, as well as the requirements of international agreements on the border.



There are occasional reports of conflicts and violence along the border. However, they are generally limited to incidents involving smuggling and theft of livestock and natural resources. Mongolian border troops regularly participate in joint border exercises with Chinese and Russian troops, and official border relations are good.

India – Bangladesh: (4096 km) – India is the 7th largest country in the world and third largest in Asia. It has borders with 7 countries. But the longest border is with the small country of Bangladesh, which is around 5% of the size of India.



The reason for that is that the India-Bangladesh border is split into 199 different segments, created by the 92 Bangladeshi enclaves inside India, and 106 Indian enclaves inside Bangladesh.



The border is used as a route for smuggling livestock, food items, medicines and drugs from India to Bangladesh. Moreover, illegal immigrants from Bangladesh cross the border to India. Because of a large number of illegal immigrants crossing from Bangladesh into India, a controversial shoot-on-sight policy has been enforced by the Indian border patrols. This policy was initiated with reports of violence between the illegal migrants and Indian soldiers. The border has also witnessed occasional skirmishes between the Indian Border Security Force and the Border Guards Bangladesh, most notably in 2001.

Russia – China: (4,005 km) – Despite the fact that Mongolia and Kazakhstan stand between those two giant countries, they still share a mutual border long enough to be the 6th longest in the world. As with many other international borders, a bilateral treaty exists concerning the physical modalities of managing the China–Russia border. The currently valid agreement was signed in Beijing in 2006.

The treaty requires the two states to clear trees in a 15-metre wide strip along the border (i.e. within 7.5 meters from the border line on each side of it). Civil navigation is allowed on the border rivers and lakes, provided the vessels of each country stay on the appropriate side of the dividing line; similar rules apply to fishing in these waters.



Each country's authorities carry out appropriate measures to prevent grazing livestock from crossing into the other country, and endeavour to apprehend and return any livestock that straggles onto their territory from across the border.

Hunting using firearms is prohibited within 1,000 metres from the border line and hunters are prohibited from crossing the border in pursuit of a wounded animal. Detained illegal border crossers are supposed to be normally returned to their country of origin within seven days from their apprehension.

There are 26 border crossings on the China–Russia border; all of them are located on the eastern section of the border. The 25 crossing points established by the treaty include 4 railway crossings, 11 highway crossings, 1 river crossing, and 9 “mixed” (mostly ferry crossings).

Russia – Mongolia: (3,485 km) – The international border between Russian Federation and Mongolia is virtually all land. The boundary is the third longest border between Russia and another country, behind the Kazakhstan–Russia border and the China–Russia border.



At the border there are over 20 official crossing points, such as Altan - Agantsyn Gol, Tayrisin - Arshan, Bayan - Dzurh. Only one of them is a railway crossing (Naushki), the rest are highway crossings. Some of the highway border crossing points are designated as “bilateral”, rather than “multilateral”, meaning that they are only open to the citizens of the two bordering countries, and not to third-country nationals.

The main problems at the Russian–Mongolian border, specifically in its Republic of Tuva section, are cross-border livestock theft (in both directions) and smuggling of meat.

Brazil – Bolivia: (3,423 km) – Brazil is the 5th largest country in the world, and shares a land border with 10



countries. Its longest land border is with Bolivia. The boundary line crosses a variety of terrains, going from large urban areas by inhospitable deserts and forests.

China – India: (3,380 km) – This particular border happens to be China's third longest land border and India's second longest. The border between the countries is in more than a single section, and the main section is the "Line of Actual Control" around the Kashmir region which includes many disputed parts.



The 1962 Sino-Indian War was fought in both of these areas. An agreement to resolve the dispute was concluded in 1996, including "confidence-building measures" and a mutually agreed Line of Actual Control.

In 2006, the Chinese ambassador to India claimed that all of Arunachal Pradesh was Chinese territory. At that time, both countries had claimed incursions as much as a kilometre in Sikkim.



In 2009, India had announced it would deploy additional military forces along the border.

United States – Mexico: (3,141 or 3,201 km) – While the United States shares a land border only with Canada and Mexico, Mexico itself shares borders with the United States, Guatemala and Belize. This border is the most frequently crossed international boundary in the world, with around 350 million legal crossings every year.

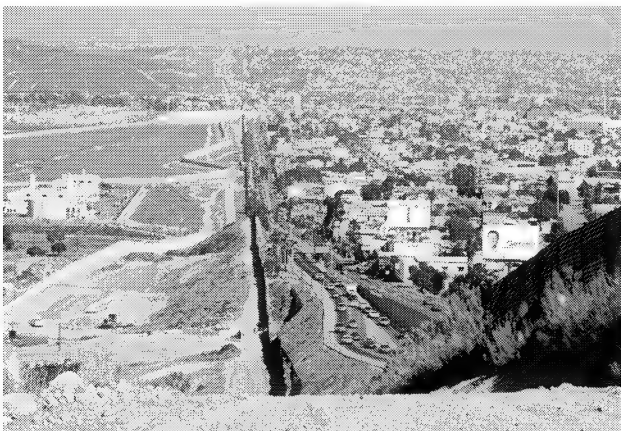


The United States had put up a barrier along this border trying to stop the flow of illegal immigrants. The barrier is a series of walls, fences, sensors and cameras. There are in excess of 17,000 United States Border Patrol personnel on the Mexico–US border alone.



The region is characterised by deserts, rugged hills, and abundant sunshine. There are 45 US–Mexico border crossings with 330 ports of entry.

Border disputes are neither rare, nor a new phenomenon. Research shows that around 100 countries, both developed and developing, have been fighting for centuries over disputed frontiers, ambiguous maritime boundary claims and undefined borders.



However, numerous countries have succeeded in settling their disputes amicably and with smiles. For example, in 2014, Holland and Germany ended their centuries-old border dispute. Both the European nations had long disa-

greed about where exactly their shared nautical border had been lying in the North Sea. A meeting of the two nations' foreign ministers finally put an end to the dispute.

Similarly, the United States and Canada laid to rest their 82-year old Alaska boundary dispute. This dispute had been going on between the Russian and British Empires since 1821, and was inherited by the United States as a consequence of the Alaska Purchase in 1867.



It was resolved by arbitration in 1903 with a delegation that included three Americans, two Canadians, and one British delegate that became the swing vote.

By a 4 to 2 vote, the final resolution had favoured the American position. The disappointment and anger in Canada was directed less at the United States, and more at the British government for allegedly betraying Canadian interests in pursuit of a friendly relationship between Britain and the United States.

Japan and Russia have had agreements in this context, India and Bangladesh have inked accords, Chad and Libya have settled issues, Sierra Leone and Guinea have embraced each other, Tajikistan and Russia have followed suit by shaking hands, Britain and Ireland have signed peace pacts, Syria and Turkey have buried the hatchet and so have Turkey and Greece, Norway and United Kingdom have signed treaties, the United States and the Netherlands have done so, and even Israel and Egypt have accepted decisions of the arbitration tribunals.

A good number of other land and sea boundary disputes between nations have been settled on the table through parleys, though many including Kashmir remain unresolved. (*The News International*)

How Islamic terrorists infiltrate U.S. airport security

The fact that a Somali Muslim war criminal booted from **Canada** could somehow land a job at Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C., appears shocking on its face – but at least six dozen other employees with suspected terror links have been caught working at U.S. airports.



An investigation found that Yusuf Abdi Ali, who is accused of committing atrocities while he was a military commander during Somalia's civil war, has been living a quiet suburban life in posh Alexandria, Virginia, for about 20 years.

He was deported from Canada after that country found out about his past. But he found refuge in the U.S., which gave him a visa based on his marriage to a Somali-American woman who claimed to be a refugee fleeing war in Somalia. But even that claim turned out to be bogus, as the woman had falsified her refugee application. Still, nothing has been done to remove either Ali or his wife from the U.S.



As shocking as it may sound, this is not the first incidence of an immigrant with ties to Islamic terrorism or other crimes working at an airport in America. Documents obtained through a *Freedom of Information Act* request in March reveal 73 people employed by major airlines at 40 airports nationwide were flagged for potential ties to terrorism.

Terrorism-linked employees have also been flagged at Boston's Logan International Airport, Seattle's Sea Tac Airport, Denver International Airport, Honolulu International Airport, Dallas Love Field, San Francisco International Airport, and Los Angeles International Airport, among others.

These employees were not properly vetted because the TSA said it did not have full access to terrorist databases during their hiring, according to an Inspector General's report. "Without complete and accurate information, TSA risks credentialing and providing unescorted access to secure airport areas for workers with potential to harm the nation's air transportation system," the report found.

In 2014, three Somali "refugees" with ties to either ISIS and/or al-Shabab were arrested after it was discovered they had plans to travel overseas and fight with the terrorist organizations. All three had security clearances for jobs at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport that allowed them to go into areas travelers were not allowed.

One of the men, Abdisalan Hussein Ali, blew himself up at a military checkpoint in Mogadishu in 2010. Just four years earlier, he was serving coffee at the Caribou Coffee in Concourse G, right across from customs. One of the other two also became a suicide bomber.

In light of the missing EgyptAir Flight MS804 that went down in the Mediterranean Sea, it was reported in November, 2015 that dozens of Paris airport workers were on a terror watch list. One can only guess how many others are jihad sympathizers or how many still work there and at other airports throughout Europe, Canada and the U.S.

"Most Americans would be shocked to learn that 'refugee' status vaults a person to the front of the job placement line," former Congresswoman Michele Bachmann said. "What is puzzling is that so many of these jobs are in our nation's airports. Coincidence? Why aren't 'refugees' working in agriculture or in kitchens, or in nursing homes?"

Clare Lopez, vice president for research and analysis at the Washington-based Center for Security Policy, said the entire U.S. system for screening applicants to enter this country – whether asylee, immigrant, non-immigrant or refugee – is broken. She said it is forbidden to ask the kind of direct questions about a person's ideological beliefs that a trained officer might ask to ensure the applicant honestly will renounce all other legal allegiances to live only under the U.S. Constitution.

"Worse yet, we know from DHS whistleblower Phil Haney that even when derogatory information about individuals with connections to terrorist organizations is entered into the system, it sometimes gets deleted – on purpose," she adds.

Haney, a 12-year veteran officer with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, has co-authored a new book, "See Something Say Nothing: A Homeland Security Officer Exposes the Government's Submission to Jihad," about the Obama administration's focus on protecting the civil rights and civil liberties of suspected jihadists, placing those concerns above that of protecting the American public.

"As any frequent traveler knows, there are visibly Shariah-compliant Muslims – with full Salafi-cut beards and mustaches, hijabs, and other clothing intended to communicate allegiance to the Islamic legal system called Shariah – at most major metropolitan airports in America," Lopez said.

"Some of them even combine their Shariah-compliant clothing with TSA 'uniforms.' At a time when the threat from Islamic terrorism to the flying public has never been more dangerous, screening procedures for entry to the U.S. as well as for airport employment must be tightened."

Name checks with terrorist databases are inadequate for the thousands who don't appear on such lists, or whose names are spelled in various ways, or whose documents are either fraudulent or non-existent to begin with, Lopez said. "As things are now, the potential for jihadist infiltration is a disaster waiting to happen," she said.

Ali is being sued in a U.S. civil court. The lawsuit, which a human rights group initially filed in 2006, calls Ali a "war criminal" who committed "crimes against humanity." Ali and his lawyer, Joseph Peter Drennan, deny all accusations listed in the CJA lawsuit.

Ali was deported from Canada after news about his alleged war crimes in Somalia became public through the CBC documentary. Ali entered the U.S. on a visa through his Somali wife, Intisar Farah, who became a U.S. citizen after coming to the U.S. as a refugee.

But even his wife's history is marred. In 2006, she was found guilty of naturalization fraud for claiming she was a "refugee" from the very Somali clan that Ali is accused of torturing. But she apparently served a light sentence and was never deported as the CNN crew filmed Ali walking out of his apartment with his hijab-wearing wife.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it was aware of Ali's past but refused to answer any questions about him, nor would ICE give the terror suspect's immigration status.

CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND AGRICULTURE AROUND THE WORLD

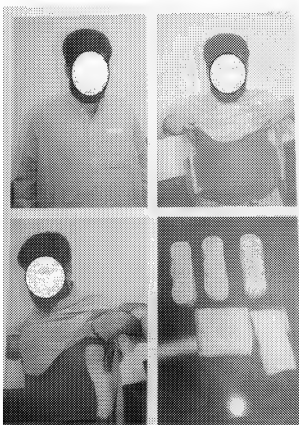
Afghanistan – Drugs detected at Kabul International Airport (KIA)



Airport customs officials detected 2166 grams of heroin at KIA on Thursday 9 June 2016.

Airport Customs officials added that the drugs were placed very skillfully in a suitcase and intended for dispatch to Saudi Arabia.

Officials added that a man and a woman were arrested in connection with this case.



Afghanistan – Gold seizure by Airport Customs officials

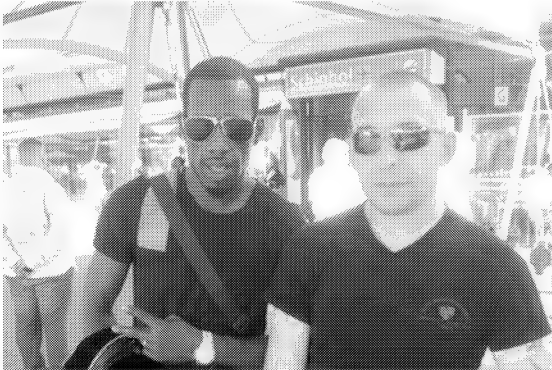
Hamid Karzai International airport customs officials detected 3866 grams of gold at Hamid Karzai International Airport on Friday 24 June 2016.

Airport Customs officials added that the gold was packed and placed very skillfully in a man's body and intended to pass the customs area without paying the duty.

Officials added that a man was arrested in connection with this case.

Armenia – Armenian court sentences Polish national to 15 years for drug smuggling

An Armenian court has sentenced Rafal Zelbert, a Polish national arrested at Yerevan's Zvartnots Airport on November 15, 2015, for attempting to smuggle 13 kilograms of cocaine into the country, to fifteen years' imprisonment. The cocaine, concealed in Zelbert's luggage, had an estimated street value of US\$4 million.



Zelbert, who arrived in Yerevan on a flight emanating from Sao Paulo via Dubai, tried to pass through the 'nothing to declare' customs exit. During the investigation, Zelbert, 31, confessed to the drug smuggling charges.

Two documents provided by the Interpol office in Armenia confirmed that Zelbert was a member of a Polish-Nigerian organization involved in drug trafficking in various European countries.

In 2011, according to Interpol, Zelbert was arrested at the Malta airport for drug smuggling. According to the Maltese court registry, Zelbert was charged with smuggling 443.69 grams of

cocaine and a diazepam-like tranquilizer drug and sentenced to 4.5 years. In 2015, he was arrested again on suspicion of trafficking more than 20 times that amount of drugs.

In his testimony, Zelbert said he was turned on to the idea of cocaine smuggling by Emilio Perez, a Brazilian friend he met while living in Holland. Perez had told Zelbert that high-grade cocaine could be obtained in Brazil for \$2,000 per kilo, and that lower grade cocaine was going for \$1,000 per kilo.

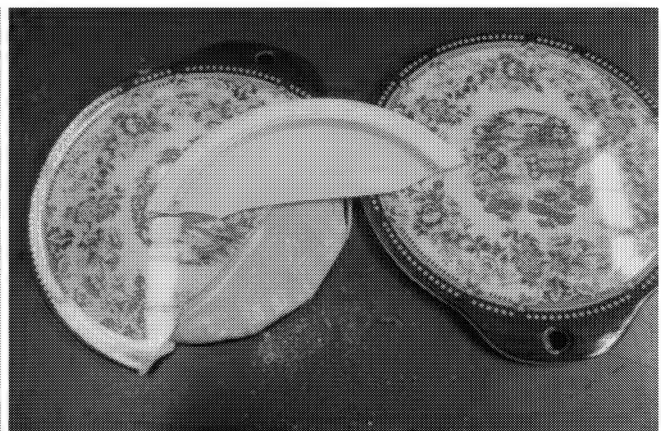
The street price in Holland for a kilo was 35,000-60,000 Euros. It seemed like a no-brainer and Zelbert decided to travel to Brazil and bring the drugs to Holland. Zelbert decided to return to Holland via Yerevan because, as he stated in his testimony, "it was convenient."

Before being arrested in November, Zelbert had made another trip to Yerevan in May. He remembers arriving at Zvartnots Airport from Brazil and then purchasing a ticket to Prague via Kiev. He was headed to Europe within two hours after arriving in Armenia. It appears that Zelbert believed Armenia would serve as an easy backdoor to Europe and its drug markets.

Zelbert left for Brazil in August 2015 and purchased 13 kilos of high-grade cocaine for \$18,000. The drugs, concealed in his luggage, made it through customs in Sao Paulo and Dubai. Had he not been arrested in Yerevan, Zelbert planned to transport the cocaine to Holland, Denmark and Norway for sale.

Australia – Man charged with importing 11kg of ephedrine in plastic plates

Australian Border Force investigators have charged a 30-year-old Strathfield man with importing 11kg of ephedrine concealed in plastic plates.



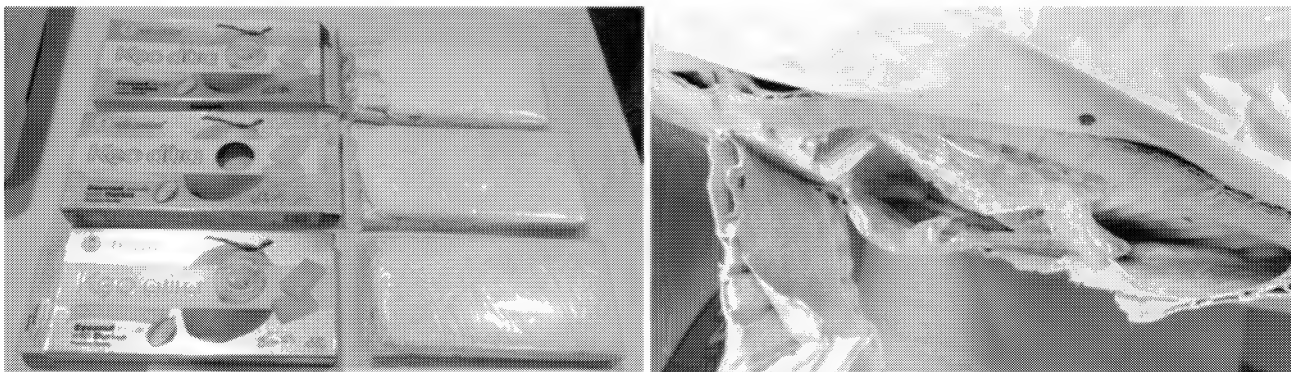
On 9 June 2016, ABF officers targeted a parcel from China addressed to a residence in Strathfield, NSW. The officers examined the parcels of plastic plates which were found to have concealments of powder within each plate. Initial testing of the substance was positive for ephedrine.

Following further investigation and warrant activity, the man was charged with intentionally importing prohibited tier 1 goods, contrary to Section 233BAA(4) of the *Customs Act 1901*, which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and or a fine not exceeding \$180,000 or both.

Australia – Woman charged with importing more than eight kilograms of pseudoephedrine

Australian Border Force officers at Sydney Airport have intercepted a woman attempting to illegally importing approximately 8.7 kilograms of pseudoephedrine concealed in one box and several food packages.

The passenger, who is a 48-year-old Australian citizen, arrived into Sydney Airport from Vietnam on 12 June and was selected by ABF officers for a baggage examination.

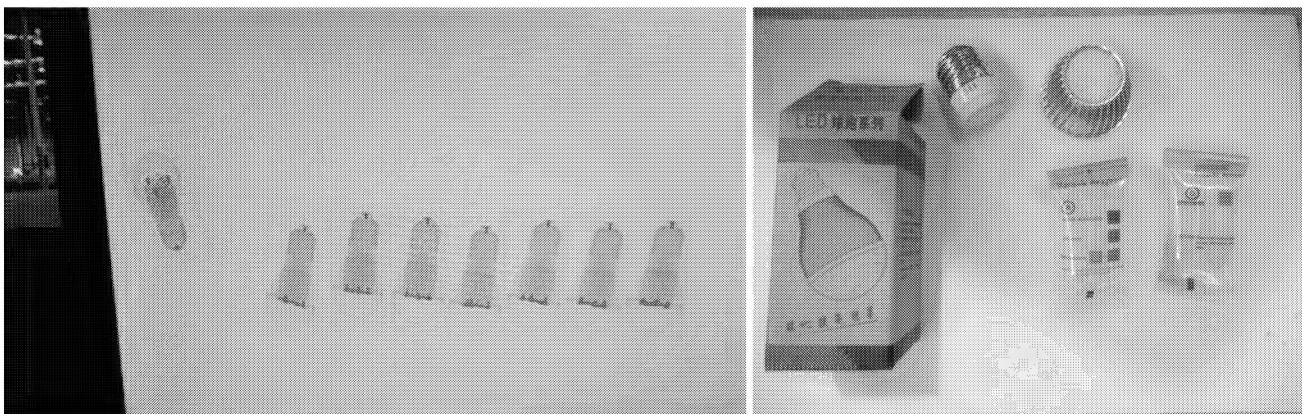


The officers examined a large cardboard box and discovered a powdery substance within false compartments in the box. Four packages of confectionary were also located, and further examination revealed a sealed bag of white powder on top of the confectionary items.

Australia – ABF sheds light on ephedrine concealment

Australian Border Force investigators have charged a 25-year-old Sydney man with importing 12kg of ephedrine concealed in light globes.

On 13 June 2016, ABF officers targeted a parcel from China addressed to a residence in Haymarket, New South Wales. The officers examined the parcel of light globes which were found to have concealments of powder within each globe. Initial testing of the substance was positive for ephedrine.



Following further investigation and warrant activity, the man was charged with intentionally importing prohibited tier 1 goods, contrary to Section 233BAA(4) of the *Customs Act 1901*, which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and or a fine not exceeding \$180,000 or both.

Australia – Bad hair day for man charged with importing 20kg of ephedrine in hair brushes

Australian Border Force investigators have charged a 31-year-old Sydney man with importing 20kg of ephedrine concealed in hair brushes.



On 17 June 2016, ABF officers targeted a parcel from China addressed to a residence in West Ryde, New South Wales.

The officers examined the parcel of hair brushes which were found to have concealments of powder. Initial testing of the substance was positive for ephedrine.

Following further investigation and warrant activity, the

man was charged with the following:

- 1 x intentionally import prohibited tier 1 goods, contrary to Section 233BAA(4) of the *Customs Act 1901*,
- 1 x convey/possess prohibited imports/prohibited exports, contrary to Section 233(1)(D) of the *Customs Act 1901*,
- 3 x fail to comply with order to assist officer, contrary to Section 201a(3) of the *Customs Act 1901*.

Australia – Man sentenced to six months imprisonment for possession of child pornography

A Taiwanese national was sentenced to six months imprisonment following Australian Border Force investigations into the possession of child pornography.

The 32-year-old man appeared in the Adelaide Magistrates Court on 30 June 2016 for sentencing after pleading guilty to importing child pornography contrary to section 233BAB (5) of the *Customs Act 1901*. The man has served four and half months and will be eligible for release in two weeks. The man will depart the country immediately upon his release from prison.

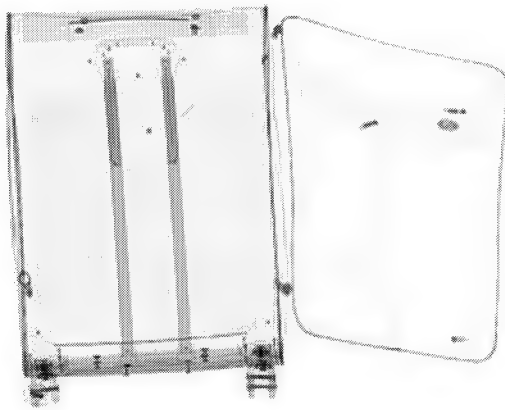
ABF officers detected the child pornography on 14 February 2016 when the man arrived at Adelaide airport on a flight from Hong Kong.

Officers stopped the man for questioning, which raised suspicion resulting in a search of his luggage and phone. The abhorrent material was found on the phone. A further forensic examination of the phone revealed 61 still images of child pornography.

Australia – Woman charged with importing 4kg of cocaine

A 26-year-old Brazilian national has appeared in Sydney Central Local Court charged with importing four kilograms of cocaine.

Australian Border Force officers targeted the woman for a baggage examination on her arrival into Sydney International Airport from Chile July 18. During their examination, the officers observed that her empty suitcase was unusually heavy, with an x-ray revealing an inconsistency in its lining. The officers deconstructed the suitcase, uncovering a white powder.



Initial testing of the substance was positive for cocaine. Further testing will be done to confirm its exact weight and purity.

Australia – 44 illegal workers refused entry to Australia

The Australian Border Force has stopped 44 Malaysian nationals attempting to enter Australia to work illegally.

Twelve of the individuals arrived at Perth Airport on 30 July and an additional 32 arrived at Gold Coast Airport. Both groups arrived on flights from Kuala Lumpur and all 44 individuals were returned to Kuala Lumpur within 24 hours of their arrival.

On arrival, the individuals were interviewed by ABF officers to determine their intentions while visiting Australia. During these interviews ABF officers ascertained that the individuals intended to work illegally and were therefore detained and removed.

Austria – Austria prepares controls at further border crossings

Austria has started preparing strict control measures at additional border crossings to Italy and Slovenia that could be implemented in case of increasing migrant arrivals, police announced June 6.



The latest security developments come as Austria's ongoing preparations at the Brenner mountain pass between Italy and Austria have irritated the government in Rome and the European Commission in Brussels, as controls at this key transit point could further erode Europe's borderless Schengen zone.

A tent for handling arrivals was being built at the Thörl-Maglern crossing at the Austrian-Italian border, police spokesman Rainer Dionisio said, adding that a fence might also be raised. Construction work has also begun at the Karawanks tunnel, which links Slovenia with Austria, he said.

Bangladesh – One held with Indian currency at Dhaka Airport

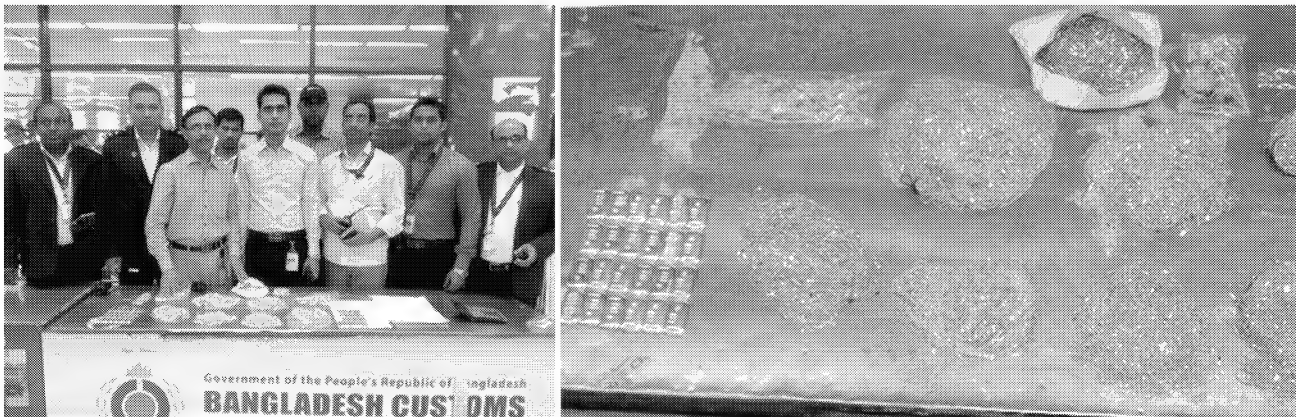
Kamrul Hasan A person has been detained with a huge amount of Indian currency at Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka city. The detainee is as Abul Bashar, a trader from Bangladesh.

CIID Assistant Director Tarek Mahmud said: "Acting on a tip-off, we searched an aircraft of Air Arabia after it landed at the airport on June 10. "We searched Abul's luggage and recovered the hidden Indian currency."

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Deputy Director Milon Sheiks said: "We have called experts to verify if the currency is fake. We are still counting the money. The amount might be Tk13 million (\$210,000)." DG of the Directorate of Customs Intelligence Dr Moinul Khan said they also detained a person who had come to receive Abul at the airport. (*Dhaka Tribune*)

Bangladesh – 14.3kg gold seized from brothers

Dhaka Customs Preventive team seized 14.33kg of gold bars and ornaments from two brothers at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka June 17. The gold worth about Tk 71.6 million (\$1,200,000) was hidden in two specially made belts which were wrapped around their bellies, said Rezaul Karim, assistant commissioner of customs.



Acting on a tip-off, the team held the brothers—Mamun Khan, 40 and Murad Khan, 30—who landed in Dhaka from Singapore on a Tiger Airlines flight at 12:10pm. "They are frequent travelers," Karim added. (*The Daily Star*)

Bangladesh – Huge cigarette haul at Dhaka airport

Customs authorities have seized 2,500 cartons (495,000 pieces) of illegally imported cigarettes at the Shahjalal International Airport. They were found aboard three flights from the Middle East. Of them, 1,740 cartons were seized from an Air Arabia flight from Dubai.

The biggest haul of cigarette at the airport in recent times had an estimated market price of Tk50 million (\$837,200), Customs Intelligence Director General Moinul Khan said in a statement. (*Dhaka Tribune*)

Bangladesh – Man jailed for 10 yrs for carrying gold bars

A Chittagong court on June 26 sentenced a man to 10 years' imprisonment for smuggling in 20 gold bars from abroad. Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge Shahenur also fined the convict, Salim Uddin, Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer three more months in jail.

Salim Uddin was arrested along with the gold bars, weighing 2.8 kilogrammes, at Shah Amanat International Airport in the port city on January 24, 2014. He was held by Customs Intelligence officials after he had landed from a plane from Dubai, the official added.

Customs intelligence officer B M Abdullah-Al-Masum filed the case against Salim. On completion of the investigation, police submitted the charge sheet against him the same year. (*The Daily Star*)

Bangladesh – 100,000 ATM cards seized at Dhaka airport



Customs House officials at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on June 28 seized 100,000 illegally imported ATM cards suspected to have been brought for use in financial crimes. The cards, marked as of City Bank, arrived in Dhaka on a Singapore Airways flight on June 26, said Rezaul Karim, assistant commissioner of customs.

Acting on a tip-off, a preventive team of customs intercepted an unidentified man on June 28 who was to carry the cards from gate no. 2 of cargo village at the airport's warehouse, he said. When the consignment was being cleared without a bill of entry, the customs authorities seized the cards, but the man managed to flee the scene, the customs official said.

The cards might have been brought for "ill-intention" and financial crimes, he added. (*The Daily Star*)



Canada – 222 kilograms of tobacco seized at Sask. border point

A Calgary man has been charged with smuggling after 220 kilograms of tobacco was seized at a Saskatchewan-U.S. border crossing. It's the biggest tobacco bust on the Prairies in at least five years, the Canada Border Services Agency says.

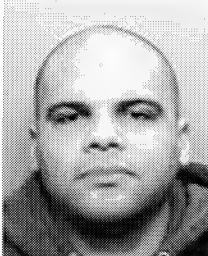
CBSA officers seized the tobacco April 6 as the man, 56, was coming into Canada at North Portal, Sask., north of North Dakota.

He was charged June 3 with smuggling, making false statements, failing to report imported goods, and willfully evading the payment of duties on imported goods pursuant to the *Customs Act*. He was also charged with unlawful possession under the *Excise Act*. (CBC News Saskatchewan)

Canada – Abbotsford man who fired a handgun fleeing from U.S. border guards to be extradited

A B.C. man who fired a handgun while fleeing U.S. border guards has been ordered committed for extradition to the U.S.

CRIME STOPPERS



1-800-222-8444 (TIPS)
 WWW.CRIMESTOPPERS.NET
 TEXT CRIMES (274637) KTCW

MUGSHOT

Nathan John
 HALL

DOB - 1977-08-01
 Wanted as of February 26, 2013 for:
 Breach of Undertaking X 3,
 Theft Under \$5000

6 ft 1 in - 185 cm
 260 lbs - 118 kg
 Brown Hair, Brown Eyes

File # 2012-14092

Nathan John Hall and another B.C. man, Jeffrey Laviolette, were confronted by officers of the U.S. Border Patrol when they entered the U.S. from Canada in the woods near Sumas, Wash., on April 2, 2013. American authorities say Hall, who was carrying a firearm, dropped his backpack, fired his handgun once in the air as he fled and escaped across the border into Canada. The shooting incident triggered a day-long manhunt that ended with Hall's arrest.

Officials examining Laviolette's backpack found 20.6 kilograms of MDMA, or ecstasy. Inside Hall's backpack was what authorities allege was false identification used by Hall as well as a pair of handcuffs.

Court heard that several weeks prior to the shooting, trail surveillance cameras installed by border patrol agents captured images of two people dressed in camouflage and carrying backpacks as they illegally entered the U.S.

from Canada at the same location near Sumas. The images also showed one of them, who authorities believe was Hall, carrying a firearm strapped to his leg on the outside of his pants.

Hall, who is being sought for prosecution in the U.S. on charges of drug trafficking and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, denied at the extradition hearing that he was the man who committed the crimes.

But in a ruling released June 3, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Paul Pearlman concluded the evidence supported a reasonable inference that he was involved in drug trafficking. "Mr. Hall and Mr. Laviolette crossed the border wearing camouflage clothing at a location known to the Border Patrol to be used for the transport of contraband from Canada into the United States."

Similarly, the evidence supported a reasonable inference that Hall intended to possess the firearm for a purpose dangerous to the public peace, whether to deter police pursuit or for protection against others engaged in the illicit drug trade, said the judge.

"In my view, the committal evidence is sufficient to establish a prima facie case that on April 2, 2013, Mr. Hall trafficked in MDMA from Canada into the United States and that he possessed a weapon for a dangerous purpose," said Pearlman. "On the committal evidence, a reasonable jury properly instructed could convict Hall of the corresponding offences set out."

He has 30 days in which to file an appeal of the extradition committal order. (*The Province*)

Canada – Sentence of Vancouver airport drug smuggler Gurvinder Singh Pahl to be reviewed

A man found guilty of using his job at the Vancouver airport to help smuggle drugs may spend more time behind bars. Gurvinder Singh Pahl pleaded guilty in January 2015 to possessing ecstasy for the purpose of exportation and was sentenced to five years in prison.

The Crown had asked for eight years and appealed the sentencing decision, arguing the judge considered inadmissible information in a psychologist's report when determining the sentence.

A panel of three B.C. Appeals Court judges agreed in a ruling released June 10 that a mistake was made, and a special commissioner will now determine the admissibility of the evidence and send the case back to the court for sentencing.

The sentencing hearing heard that Pahl was working as a security screener at the Vancouver International Airport in May 2011 when he took a backpack filled with nearly 15 kilograms of ecstasy to another man in the U.S. departures terminal.

Pahl didn't testify, but his lawyer submitted a report from a psychologist who said Pahl told him he tried to smuggle the drugs because he was being threatened and feared for the safety of himself and his family. (CBC News)

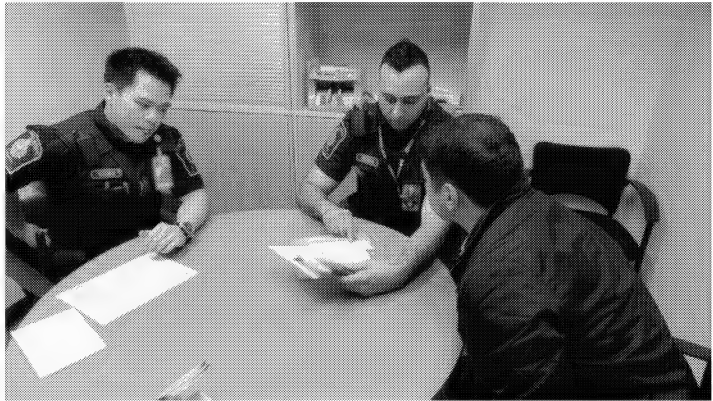
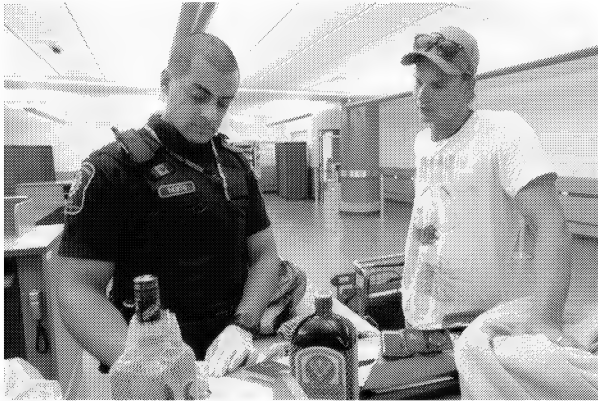
Canada – 'Border Security' TV show canned over privacy violation

Canada's border agency is pulling the plug on the controversial reality TV program "Border Security" after the federal privacy commissioner found the agency violated the rights of a construction worker filmed during a raid in Vancouver.



Privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien recently informed the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, which spearheaded a complaint on behalf of Oscar Mata Duran, that the Canada Border Services Agency breached the *Privacy Act* by allowing production company Force Four to film the agency's examination of the migrant labourer.

Therrien's office recommended the border agency end its participation in the television program, which the agency agreed to do. Agency spokeswoman Esme Bailey confirmed that "*Border Security: Canada's Front Line*" would not return for a fourth season.



"Border Security" began airing on the National Geographic Channel in 2012, chronicling encounters between border officers and the public. The unscripted series was seen by millions of Canadians and has aired in dozens of other countries. The border agency saw the show as a means of informing Canadians and international audiences about its activities.

The border agency told the commissioner the TV program was strictly based on voluntary participation, adding the show would not identify anyone who had not directly agreed to participate. (CTV News Vancouver)

Canada — This black lab has made the Canadian government about \$2.4 million — all with his nose

Jagger loves the smell of money. What that means, if you are an individual who happens to be carrying a large sum of money — say, an amount in excess of \$10,000 cash acquired by criminal deeds, bound together by a grubby elastic band and stitched into your underpants — is that Jagger is going to sniff it out.



After he does, he will sit beside you. Wagging his tail. Looking like the loveable black Labrador retriever that he is while demonstrating, yet again, that one of our country's premier super cops has four legs, big floppy ears, a lolling tongue, a favourite red rubber squeeze toy, a nose for money and a job to do, along with his master/handler/crime fighting partner, Ian Falzon, walking the beat at Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

"Jagger is a canine currency detector dog and he looks for cash," says Falzon, an officer and master dog handler with Canada Border Services.

Falzon has a warm personality and expressive eyes, eyes that mirror the disposition of his 10-year-old sidekick and

grow a little misty when he speaks about his relationship with Jagger. Jagger bounds around like a pup. He scrambles over baggage carousels. He busts bad guys and, in busting them, has netted the Canadian government about \$2.4 million in fines and penalties.

But in human years Jagger is a senior citizen. He is 70. And, in the cold calculus of the working-dog world, as soon as he turns 11 — or 77 — he will have reached mandatory retirement age. "We've been going to work every day for almost 10 years and, you know, it's going to be tough to leave him at home," Falzon says. "He is my best friend."

Jagger, with his sweet face, gentle manner and canine super-cop training will, his master hopes, become a therapy dog in retirement, volunteering his time and sweetness twice a week. "He's used to meeting people, hundreds of people every day, so to take that away from him would be tough," Falzon says. For now, Jagger is still walking a beat. (*National Post*)

Canada – Traveller arrested for smuggling two guns, 90 grams of drugs

When BSO Tyler Erickson referred two Alaska-bound travellers at the Coutts POE on June 11, he likely did not suspect just how much contraband would be found.

"One was in a truck hauling a camper, and the other was behind hauling a trailer," he says. "I knew that they were travelling together, and when I asked the [second] guy about firearms, he looked down."

Tyler had marked the first traveller for a criminality check to determine his admissibility, and BSO Levi Nye found he had a drug possession charge from 2011 and decided to search his pickup truck and camper. However, before he began, he asked the traveller to empty his pockets, which revealed a small yellow jar containing shatter. Following the man's arrest, a complete search of the truck revealed many more forms of drugs:

- 27 grams of hashish oil
- 24.9 grams of cannabis lotion
- 17 grams of shatter/THC candy
- 8.6 grams of marijuana flakes
- 3.3 grams of psilocybin (mushrooms)

Meanwhile, a search of the camper by BSO Colin Van Dyk turned up a .22-calibre rifle and .22-calibre derringer handgun, stuffed between a mattress and the rear window of the camper. Criminal Investigations has since charged the subject with two counts of making false statements and two counts of smuggling under the *Customs Act*, and with unlawfully possessing and unlawfully importing a prohibited firearm under the *Criminal Code*. He is scheduled to make his next court appearance on July 20. BSOs also issued a vehicle penalty of nearly \$6,000, which the traveller was unable to pay.



That's not all that took place at Coutts that weekend, however: "Within that hour there were four arrests going on at the same time," says Tyler. "It was kind of hectic, but everyone pulled through and worked together."

BSOs arrested an elderly U.S. man for smuggling a handgun, but returned the firearm and let him return to the United States after determining he did not have intent to smuggle. They also arrested a U.S. man who failed to declare two .22-calibre rifles. Finally, officers arrested a U.S. woman for failing to declare a rifle, shotgun, prohibited knife, and marijuana paraphernalia. She was issued an Allowed to Leave and returned to the United States for committing an offence upon entry.

Canada – Canadians detain Maltese at border over suspicions of overstaying

Maltese citizen originally from Syria stopped from entering Canada over suspicions he would overstay visa

A Maltese citizen has been refused permission to enter Canada, when border guards suspected that he would overstay his visa.



Nader Kaseb took up residence in Malta in 1997 and became a citizen in 2002. He arrived in Canada on 12 June, carrying about \$2,037, a confirmed enrolment in an English-language course in Nova Scotia and a return ticket dated slightly after the end of the course. But he was told to leave the country by June 18 because Canada Border Service agents didn't believe Kaseb and accused him of attempting to live in Canada without a visa to do so.

"I swear after I finish the school I will go back to Malta, because I'm coming just for study," Kaseb said before the hearing.

The border agency was concerned because Kaseb hadn't been employed in Malta for about a year and lived in shared

accommodations. They also took into account that the friend he had in Nova Scotia was someone he had met in a refugee camp.

He said he arrived in Canada at about 7:30 p.m. and border guards kept him for two or three hours without asking any questions. Then they asked him questions until about 5 a.m. (*Malta Today*)

Canada – BSOs at YYC seize \$19,000 in suspected proceeds of crime

While conducting outbound currency verifications for a KLM flight on June 14, Officer James Ewing interviewed a 74-year-old man who was travelling to Budapest, Hungary. The interview led to an examination which revealed that the man was carrying \$19,126, and ultimately ended in a Level IV currency seizure with no terms of release.



Canada Border
Services Agency

Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada



When questioned as to how much currency he was in possession of, the traveller told the officer that he had \$8,000. When Officer Ewing advised the man that he was going to count the money to complete the verification, the traveller handed him an envelope containing \$10,000.

Officer Ewing asked why he would only declare \$8,000 when he was in possession of \$10,000 – to which he received no answer. He followed up by asking the traveller if he was aware of the reporting requirements for currency – to which the traveller confirmed that he did.

Officer Ewing advised the traveller that he was going to search his carry-on, and asked if there was any more money present in the bag. The traveller responded that there was not. Upon opening the carry-on bag, multiple envelopes were found, all of which contained currency in varying amounts and forms. After counting this newly found currency and making conversions, the total of currency in the man's possession was the equivalent of \$19,126.

At this point the traveller was informed that he would not be travelling, as Officer Ewing needed to continue the examination. The man was escorted down into the secondary area.

The traveller could not clearly explain where all of the currency came from, nor could he provide any proof of origin for the funds. The traveler proceeded to make inconsistent statements regarding his income – his income did not support travelling with such a large sum of money, though somehow he had made 12 trips since 2010 to Budapest, Hungary.

He first stated that the purpose of his trip was to visit family, then changed his story to say it was due to a death in the family, then again changed his story saying that the purpose was to purchase a condo – however he could provide no details regarding the condo's cost or location.

As a result of the conflicting information and lack of proof of origin among other indicators, the currency was seized as suspected proceeds of crime in a Level IV seizure.

Canada – Criminal Investigations shuts down drug lab in Edmonton

On June 15 and into June 16, Criminal Investigations in Edmonton executed search warrants on a residence and vehicle believed to be involved in smuggling and manufacturing steroids. Significant amounts of suspected steroids were seized, along with items indicative of production including commercial vials, pill bottles and labels, two pill presses and documentation suggesting production schedules.

Originally, an incoming shipment from China was interdicted by CBSA in **Vancouver**. The shipment contained 36 barrels of products such as sodium hexametaphosphate, calcium carbonate and methylbenzotriazole – all of which have various commercial uses.

Inside each barrel approximately 2 kg of steroids were found, 11 of which were destined for Edmonton. These 11 barrels contained in excess of 20 kg of various raw steroids. The steroids were removed from the shipment, and the information was referred to Criminal Investigations. Following delivery of the barrels, search warrants were granted.

Upon conducting the searches, officers located three occupants. When clearing the residence, officers suspected that one of the occupants was running a cleaning program on his phone. Officers then discovered that the toilet was filled with white powder – it appeared to be an attempt to destroy evidence.

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Canada

All three occupants were arrested, and have now been charged under section 155 of the *Customs Act*. Following a Bail Hearing on the morning of June 16, each has been offered release on cash bonds.

The investigation continues in order to determine if any additional charges may be laid.

Canada – Trial set in smuggling case

A Lethbridge judge, not Santa Claus, will determine whether a Georgia man has been naughty or nice when the U.S. citizen goes to trial just days before Christmas.

During a brief hearing June 22 in Lethbridge provincial court, a trial was scheduled for Michael John Bissonette,

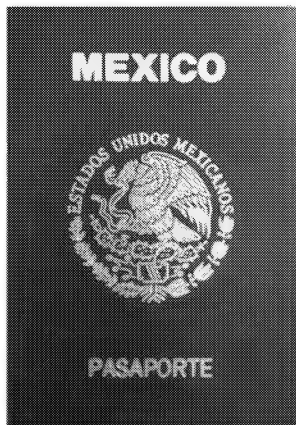


who faces numerous charges after his vehicle was searched at the Coutts border crossing earlier this year.

Bissonette, who has elected to be tried by a provincial court judge, pleaded not guilty May 18 to four counts under the Criminal Code of unauthorized importation and one count of possession of a prohibited, loaded weapon. He also pleaded not guilty to five counts under the *Customs Act* of making false statements, and three counts of smuggling goods.

Bissonette, 47, was charged after border officers seized a prohibited .380-calibre pistol and 24 prohibited gun magazines after a man arrived at the border crossing in March. The accused's trial is set for Dec. 21-23. (*Lethbridge Herald*)

Canada – Canada to lift visa requirement for Mexico travelers for first time since '09



For the first time in nearly a decade, travelers from Mexico will no longer be required to have a visa to enter Canada, government officials said. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the policy change June 28, expressing a desire to “re-establish and strengthen” Canada’s relationship with Mexico. The lifting of the visa requirement will take effect Dec. 1, officials said.

The visa requirement for Mexican travelers has been in place since 2009, when it was implemented out of a desire to control the flow of refugees, which officials said was rooted in ineffectual Canadian law.

However, once the visa requirement is lifted Mexican nationals will still need what the Canadian government calls an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), which can be applied for online.

Canada – Man, 63, gets 10 years for drug smuggling

A 63-year-old eastern Ontario man has been given a lengthy prison sentence for trying to smuggle a large amount of drugs into Canada.

Wayne Rutherford of Colborne had pleaded guilty in March to two counts of unlawfully importing a controlled substance and two counts of possession of a substance for the purpose of trafficking. A court official says he was sentenced in a Windsor, Ont., court on June 27 to 10 years less eight days in prison.

Rutherford was arrested on Aug. 4, 2013, at the Ambassador Bridge in Windsor. Canada Border Services Agency officers found 53 kilograms of cocaine and 22 kilograms of methamphetamines hidden inside a tractor-trailer carrying produce from California. (*Brampton Guardian*)

Canada – Prairie BSOs smash 50-gun mark early into summer

Prairie BSOs are on a roll when it comes to intercepting undeclared guns in 2016. As of July 5, there were 54 firearms seized in 44 incidents, with half of the guns picked after the start of June. The vast majority were seized in southern Alberta (30), but southern Saskatchewan (14) and southern Manitoba (nine) also posted respectable numbers, and officers at Winnipeg Land Commercial also seized one gun.



One of the most notable cases was the seizure of a restricted AR-15 assault rifle and four overcapacity magazines from an Alaska-bound traveller at Coutts on June 28.

“The gun was located – wrapped in plastic in a cardboard box – in the back of a cargo trailer,” says seizing BSO Levi Nye. “The magazines were in a brown bag in the cargo trailer.”

He says this incident afforded the opportunity for assisting Officer Trainee Brian Valcke, who was in only his second week at Coutts, to make his first arrest. The traveller

ultimately paid a \$1,500 penalty for failing to declare and was issued an Allowed to Leave for committing an offence upon entry.

In another case out of Carway on June 26, an Idaho man declared a restricted .45-calibre pistol and was informed it was not allowed into Canada without proper documentation. He decided to return to the United States and mail the gun back to Idaho, and returned to the POE that same afternoon. However, primary BSO Dixie Bevans saw that his name had been flagged and referred him for secondary examination.

“[I asked,] ‘Where’s your gun?’ and he said, ‘On the way to Idaho.’ I said, where’s the [mailing] receipt?’ and he said he didn’t have that.”

Before BSO Kirk Hinch even began searching his vehicle, the man admitted he still had the gun, and was arrested. Officers searched his sedan and found the pistol, dismantled inside boots in a duffel bag. He paid a \$1,000 penalty for failing to declare and was turned away for committing an offence upon entry.

Criminal Investigations charged another three people in June for failing to declare guns at the Coutts POE, and all three are scheduled to appear in Lethbridge Provincial Court on July 20. Investigations also charged another individual after BSOs at Coutts seized a stolen handgun from a suspected gang member on July 1, with the subject set to appear in court on August 24.

Even POEs that do not see firearms quite as regularly are getting in on the action: At Boissevain, BSO Jeremy Wilkinson and Officer Trainee Oliver Hernandez seized a pair of loaded handguns from a Tennessee couple on June 21. Both were loaded in an SUV, and the couple paid a \$1,000 penalty before returning to the United States.



At Monchy, which hadn't seized a gun in nearly five years, BSOs Ron Wollner and Curtis Clausen intercepted a restricted .38-calibre revolver from a California man's motorhome on July 5. Curtis says the traveller had already declared two handguns, but seemed hesitant answering questions about firearms. "I kind of had the feeling that there was a handgun in there that he was not telling me about," he says.

Ron found it in a closet beside the motorhome bed, and the traveller was issued an Allowed to Leave and paid a \$1,000 vehicle penalty.

Canada – Man charged after police incident at Pacific Highway border crossing

A U.S. man has now been identified and charges laid after an incident at the Pacific Highway border crossing on July 5. Thirty-two-year-old Kashon Kohler is in a Bellingham jail and accused of rushing the border crossing into Canada.



At 2:40 p.m. a Volkswagen Jetta travelling north failed to stop at the Canadian border. Police said the driver may have been in possession of a firearm.

The car travelled south along 176 Street and then doubled back to the border crossing. Patrol cars rammed the vehicle and Kohler was taken into custody by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. (Global News)

Canada – CBSA interception leads to massive fentanyl bust

Two Prairie interceptions of pre-cursor chemicals have made a significant impact removing significant quantities of fentanyl from reaching our communities.

On July 7, the CBSA participated in a joint news conference with the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) to announce charges in a massive investigation into a potential fentanyl lab, dubbed Project Alchemy.

CBSA's involvement with this case dates back to February 2015. BSOs at Calgary Commercial intercepted a 25 kilogram barrel of N-phenethyl-4-piperidinone (NPP) – an intermediate ingredient used in the production of fenta-

nyl. The shipment originated in China and was declared as yellow acid. Once lab results confirmed the substance was NPP, the shipment was turned over to the RCMP. This shipment is still under investigation.



On October 22, 2015, BSOs from Edmonton Commercial intercepted a shipment of four drums, totaling 102 kg in weight NPP. The shipment was declared as “iron oxide yellow: pigment yellow,” and was selected for examination. at the FedEx Warehouse. It had arrived from China and was destined for an Edmonton cosmetics business. The shipment was turned over to ALERT for further investigation.

A controlled delivery took place in January 2016. ALERT also executed search warrants on three Alberta residences and seized various other narcotics, weapons, and drug paraphernalia. Dean Clayton Abbot, 41, and Shavon Carlene Wenger, 32, were arrested by ALERT on July 6 and have been charged with 27 drug offences.

As a result of the interception, CBSA and ALERT kept what would have been 38 million fentanyl pills from reaching our communities.

Both interceptions are believed to be related and further charges may be forthcoming.

At the media event with ALERT Superintendent Sheetal Sehgal spoke to the media about CBSA’s role in intercepting the dangerous precursor chemical. The Alberta Minister of Justice and Solicitor General also spoke to the dangers of the narcotics and congratulated CBSA and ALERT for their work on this file. Also in attendance as observers were BSO Carmen Pearson (one of the BSOs involved in the interception), Intelligence Officer Scott Knowles, and Superintendent Bill McManners.

Canada – The incredible complications of living atop the U.S.-Canada border

Estcourt Station is a smudge of a village that straddles the Maine-Quebec border at the northernmost tip of the state. Although it’s technically in Maine, you can’t get there by way of American roads. At least not easily.



The quickest way to get to Estcourt Station from anywhere else in the U.S. is to exit Maine through the town of Fort Kent, loop through a corner of the Canadian province of New Brunswick, then drive on into Quebec, on an hour-long trek through gritty logging towns and French-speaking hamlets. You can cross back into Maine by way of the 2,970-person Quebec town of Pohénégamook.

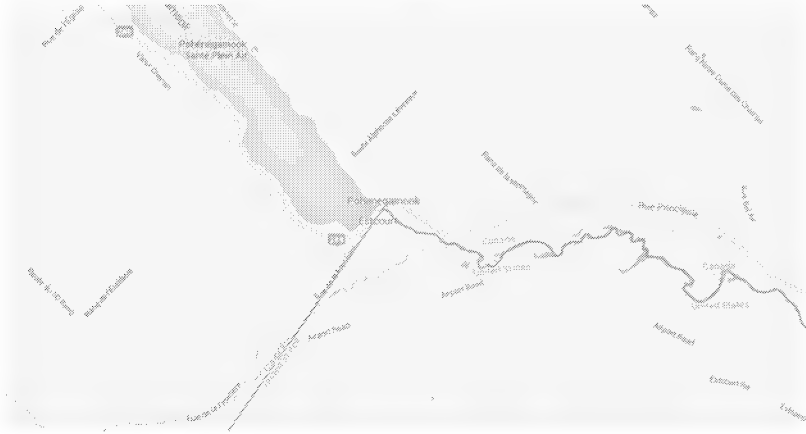
Looming somewhere past a pizza place is the international border line, where Pohénégamook becomes Estcourt Station. But even after entering the American side through a checkpoint, it can be confusing to know which country you are actually in at any given moment. The border is a generally invisible boundary that

indiscriminately hopscotches through gardens, runs through kitchens and across back porches.

Adding to the confusion in Estcourt Station is the fact that cottages on the U.S. side, along with the local Gulf Gas Station, all have 418 Quebec area codes and receive their electricity from Hydro-Québec. These American homes are the only ones in the country to have Canadian area codes. There aren’t many of them, either: the last U.S. census lists the total population on the Maine side as four people. According to a representative of the U.S. Postal Service, mail is delivered to three addresses there twice a week.

When visiting Estcourt Station recently, I spied a bank of mailboxes with the familiar insignia of the U.S. Postal Service and drove toward it. But then a Canadian customs agent on foot seemed to materialize from nowhere, and approached my slow-moving car.

"Technically, you just entered the U.S. illegally," she declared, with more of a shrug than any severity. "The border is behind the building." To enter the U.S. in an above-board fashion, the friendly agent, Annica Lebel, advised that I check in with the U.S. customs agent about 100 yards down the road. It was difficult to believe there would be a staffed station of border agents at this nowhere post but sure enough, just down the street from the Canadian office was a gate to enter the United States.



As the border angles northeastward it cuts through a couple of houses. In those homes, the border slices through living rooms and kitchens, a lasting legacy of a historical tug-of-war between the British and the United States over where the boundary should be. The Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842 set the current, somewhat bizarre border.

If you happen to be one of the dozen or so Canadians that live on *Rue de la Frontière*, the border is both everywhere and nowhere. Although the delineation is less than clear in many areas, "Residents

in the U.S. border area are responsible for knowing the location of the international boundary," says Sean Smith, Public Affairs and Border Community Liaison Officer in the Boston office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

A retired Canadian man named Raymond Trudel lives at 1165 Rue de la Frontière, in a house that straddles both sides of the border. He's allowed to enjoy all areas of his property, including his Canadian living room and his American backyard, but he can't venture beyond the property line in back—if he did, he would be entering the United States illegally. He is however, allowed to wander around the U.S. in his own backyard, but nowhere else.

"Où est la frontière?" I ask Trudel. He motioned for me to come with him. We walked along his porch and he brought me to his back deck and pointed in a sweeping motion. The Canadian-U.S. border runs right across his back deck. If he's going to grill, his burgers would be flame-broiled in the U.S. He then points to his garden and shed. "*Dans Etas-Unis.*" It's in the United States.

Lebel notes that someone like Trudel has to pay property taxes to the United States and Canada. "It's definitely unique and causes all sorts of interesting situations," she says. For instance, if his shed were vandalized, Trudel would have to call the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office some two hours away, on the Maine side. A spokesperson for the Sheriff's Department told me that hasn't ever happened but that, yes, they would have to respond.

This is unlikely. Even though the U.S. census claims four people live in Estcourt Station, the year-round population is actually zero, according to Lebel. "The last full-timer was a retired forest service ranger, but he was old and moved to Fort Kent last year," she says.



Apart from people like Trudel whose properties straddle the line, but are considered residents of Canada, there are a handful of Americans who spend summers in Estcourt Station. A couple from Kentucky owns one of the units. It's not the easiest place to relax, though: "They are expected to abide by our hours," says Lebel. "On

the weekends they need to be in their houses by 5 p.m. and can't leave until Monday morning at 9 a.m." Those are the hours of the border crossing.

Even the Gulf Gas Station, located about 200 feet inside the U.S., heeds these hours; it's open daily, but only from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. This particular filling station was the site of the notorious 2003 incident in which a young Canadian father crossed the border after hours in an attempt to get gas and was nabbed by the U.S. border patrol. The man, Michel Jalbert, spent 35 days in jail for entering the U.S. illegally.

Lebel said everything changed at the border after September 11, 2001. Even the customs agents don't enjoy the cordiality that they used to. "They sort of do their thing and we do ours," Lebel says. She patted the sidearm on her waist. "This can cause problems too." She can't just go over and chat with her U.S. counterpart, as she'd be entering a foreign country with a firearm.

Despite the seemingly porous border here, the reality is that anyone wishing the U.S. harm would be making a very unwise decision if they tried to slip into the country via Estcourt Station. If they entered by vehicle they'd face hundreds of miles of unforgiving private logging roads that turn to pudding during spring and summer rains. And winter? Forget it unless you are driving a logging truck with chains and the ability to navigate 10-foot snowdrifts.

And if you tried to enter on foot through the Parc de La Frontière, well, you'd have that same hundreds of rugged miles to contend with, except you'd be on foot.

Lebel said there are occasional rumors that this remote checkpoint will be closed, but for now, it remains open. Still, if you want to visit the most isolated border town in the contiguous 48 states, you better make sure you have a full tank of gas first. It's a long drive.

Canada – Guns N' Roses detained at Canadian border for gun possession

On the list of things you really don't want to be telling customs officials, "it wasn't my gun" ranks pretty high. Yet that's how Axl Rose shrugged off an incident when Guns N' Roses were detained on entering Canada due to



firearm possession.

Rose told the audience during the band's gig at Toronto's Rogers Centre that "we weren't exactly arrested. We were detained."

The group had been travelling to Toronto from Philadelphia, before being stopped by customs. Rose added: "They were very nice, they were very understanding. You know, it happens: You can forget you have a fucking gun. Wasn't my gun."

A spokesperson for Guns N' Roses said the gun did not belong to any member of the band.

Canada – Firearms seized at Johnstown border crossing

Two Americans were released on bail after being arrested by Canada Border Services Agency officers at the Prescott port of entry in Johnstown on July 17.

Three firearms were seized during two separate investigations. In one secondary examination of a vehicle, CBSA found a .25-calibre pistol in a driver-side door with a loaded magazine inserted and a round chambered, according to an agency news release issued on July 26. There was also a loaded 9-mm pistol found in a bag in the back of that vehicle.



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CBSA indicates that a secondary examination of an RV later that day led to the seizure of a .40-calibre pistol and two magazines reportedly found in a bedside table at the rear of the vehicle.

The release does not identify the gender and age of either suspect, or the community in which he or she lives.

Both individuals were charged with making false statements and smuggling under the *Customs Act*. They are scheduled to appear in Brockville court on Aug. 19. Bail was set at \$5,000 for one of the accused and \$10,000 for the other.

Chile – Customs makes major seizure of lethal synthetic drug

Metropolitan Customs officials at Santiago Airport made the country's largest seizure so far, of lethal synthetic drug N-Bome. Seized were 33,000 doses, in the form of stamps, from Argentina and destined to Valparaíso.



The merchandise was discovered by officers of the Customs Drug Unit in the courier zone of the metropolitan airport. Based on risk profiles, they examined suspicious envelopes in which were hidden between white sheets, 33,000 stamps on cards with a design characteristic of that used for the drug N-Bome. Field tests confirmed the finding. The drugs were handed over to the Police which, after a controlled delivery, arrested two people.

China – 'Surprisingly plump' Chinese man stopped at border had US\$74,000 cash strapped around his waist

A Chinese man was caught by customs officers as he tried to breach regulations by leaving the country with up to US\$74,000 hidden strapped around his waist.

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Mainland rules state that people who leave the country with more than US\$5,000 in cash must notify the customs authority, which will then issue a bank certificate, covering the outstanding sum, which permits them to take a large sums of foreign currency abroad.



Shenzhen officials became suspicious of the “surprisingly plump” unnamed man June 3 after he began constantly looking at staff and appeared nervous while queuing up to pass through customs. Officials were also surprised that man, who is in his 50s, was wearing a jacket, even though the weather was hot and humid, and also had an unnaturally large waistline.

After he was stopped and questioned by customs officers an alarm sounded when a scanner revealed the money strapped to his waist. The man was found to have been carrying the US currency in six large pockets that were sewn onto a large scarf, which was wrapped around his waist. (*South China Morning Post*)

China – Foreign drug trafficker caught in airport

The Beijing Customs Anti-smuggling Bureau arrested a foreign woman who tried to smuggle drugs through customs at the Beijing Capital International Airport on July 5.

The woman was walking in a weird way when she departed her plane from Africa. She was unable to answer safety check questions concerning her aim and time of this trip. She was brought to an X-ray inspection where customs officers found a total of 1117.5 grams of cocaine in her specially made underwear. The woman also tested positive for AIDS and syphilis. (*Global Times*)

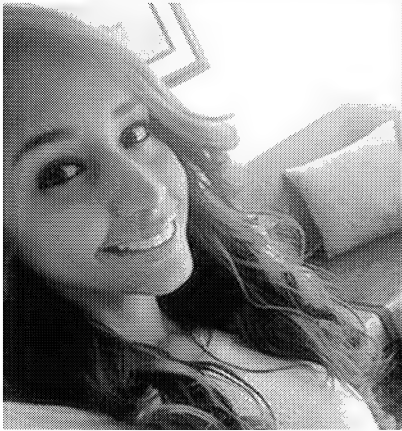
China – Chinese court jails Colombian Miss World hopeful for 15 years for smuggling drugs

A Colombian model hoping to take part in the Miss World beauty contest in China has been jailed for 15 years after she was found guilty of smuggling drugs into China.



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Juliana Lopez Sarrazola, 22, who could have faced the death penalty or a life sentence, will also be expelled from China after completing her jail term, the People's Intermediate Court of Guangzhou in Guangdong province ruled on July 25.

She was caught trying to smuggle 610 grams of cocaine hidden inside a laptop at Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport during a visit to China on July 18 last year.

Sarrazola, the winner of the Miss

Antioquia beauty contest in Colombia, had been hoping to compete in the Miss World 2015 finals in Sanya, China, last December.

"I wanted to attend the Miss World beauty contest in 2015," Sarrazola, who admitted smuggling drugs, reportedly told the court. "It takes quite some money to pay for the travel and hotels." She had reportedly needed to borrow money from a man identified in court with the name, Sergio, who would give her US\$2,500 only if she agreed to help him smuggle the drugs, the report said.

Sarrazola could have faced the death penalty or been sentenced to life imprisonment because of the quantity of drugs she had been carrying, the court said in its verdict. (*South China Morning Post*)

China – Pair caught at Qingdao airport with 7.6kg of undeclared gold items

Customs officials in the city of Qingdao have seized 16 gold items being smuggled from Japan to China, the largest amount seized by local authorities in recent years.

On July 29, a Chinese man and woman flying from Tokyo attempted to clear customs checks at Qingdao Liuting International Airport, saying they had nothing to declare. An x-ray inspection of their six pieces of luggage revealed items made of high-density metal, which prompted customs officials to open their bags for further examination, the report said.



Officials found 16 gold items along with an invoice for 40.96 million yen, the equivalent of 2.68 million yuan (HK\$3.15 million). The gold items weighed a total of 7,640 grams. (*South China Morning Post*)

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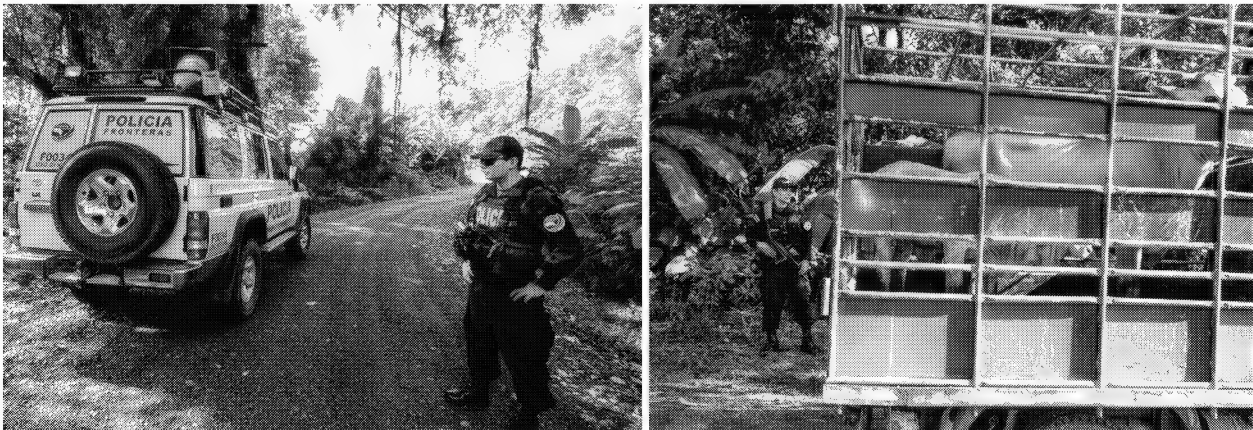
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Costa Rica – On patrol with the Costa Rican Border Police

It's 7 a.m. at the Kilometer 35 border checkpoint and members of a Border Police squad stand in a line in brown uniforms as their commander reviews the day's assignments. Adrian Barrantes and three other officers are to spend the morning on patrol.

After migrants from Africa, Cuba and elsewhere began accumulating at the southern border in March, the government announced several policies aimed at reinforcing the country's border with Panama to keep out individuals who lack authorization to enter the country.

More than two months later, migrants — many of them without identification, let alone visas — continue to cross the border and reach the temporary Red Cross camp in Paso Canoas. As many as 170 migrants have arrived at the camp in a given day, according to Red Cross Captain José Obando.



During the approximately 160-kilometer patrol from Kilometer 35 to Gamba, Golfito, Playa Zancudo, Paso Canoas and back, it became clear Barrantes and other officers face big hurdles, including resources spread thin and a border that is so porous it's practically invisible. Plus, despite increased funding and training from outside to beef up the country's border security, Costa Rica hasn't traditionally had much need for an airtight southern border.

Stopping human smugglers from moving migrants into Costa Rica is just one of many tasks assigned to Officer Barrantes and the other Border Police officers. Formed in 2013 with financial assistance and training from the U.S., Border Police officers respond to everything from illegal immigration and drug trafficking to animal control and traffic violations. They are law enforcement's first response in some of Costa Rica's most remote territory.

Shifting Priorities

The squad gets into a white Toyota Land Cruiser and sets off. The Offspring's "The Kids Aren't Alright" plays on the radio. The truck turns off the Inter-American Highway down a stretch of gravel road into the Gamba, a remote area just north of the Pacific town of Golfito. Row after row of oil palms stretch along either side of the road.

Barrantes stops the car at an intersection and sets up the first of several temporary checkpoints that day. This is one of many back roads smugglers and other people trying to avoid police use to skirt the permanent checkpoint at Kilometer 35 of the Pan-American Highway. "We know where the trouble spots are," Barrantes says. "The idea is to try to have a constant presence in these areas," he says of the roving patrols.

As three of the officers search a truck carrying two cows, Barrantes points out that the palm oil plantation here is one of several thoroughfares smugglers used to sneak Cuban migrants into Costa Rica in November before the government started issuing temporary transit visas to Cubans. African and other extra-continental migrants have also used it but not as frequently, he said.

Barrantes said he used to spend most of his time chasing down smugglers of contraband liquor and cigarettes. But within the past year, the Border Police have put more of an emphasis on stopping human smuggling.

Ironically, he said the number of migrants crossing through the oil palm plantations and other remote parts of the country has fallen, in part because the Panamanians have started policing their side of the border more aggressively. Barrantes' job has also been made easier by the Costa Rican government's decision to tacitly let most of the migrants who make it onto Costa Rican soil pass through the country.

In April, hundreds of migrants were left in limbo at the border when Panama and Costa Rica both refused to accept them. Demanding permission to cross, migrants blocked the Inter-American Highway and at least one car was damaged in the protest.

Border Police were called in to help the National Police manage the crowds of migrants, and they increased patrols to try to stop smugglers.

Eventually, Costa Rica agreed to issue the migrants who reached Costa Rica a piece of paper that allows them to circulate legally in Costa Rica so long as they check-in with authorities regularly. Normalizing these migrants freed up Border Police officers to get back to their other duties.

Pura Vida Police

After 20 minutes at the intersection in the Gamba, the officers collect the traffic cones and throw them on top of the Land Cruiser. Barrantes follows the bumpy, sometimes washed-out dirt road toward Golfito for another 10 minutes before pulling off the road at what looks like an improvised trash dump. The officers get out and walk through the trash into a clearing just behind a row of trees.

"Sometimes people do drugs back here," Barrantes explains. He says Border Police reserve their jurisdiction for places outside the bounds of a local police delegation, in this case, Golfito.

The azure waters of the Golfo Dulce rush past the truck's windows. The road is paved here and Barrantes hits the gas. There's still more than half the patrol to finish and it's already 9 a.m.

Out toward Playa Zancudo, the paved road shifts back to gravel. The officers set up the next mobile checkpoint at an intersection next to a wide, empty field. The first person stopped is a woman riding a motorcycle without a helmet. She says she's driving to pick up her daughter.

Barrantes says that he has to use "common sense" when dealing with situations like this. Yes, she's not supposed to ride without a helmet but a ticket or taking away the motorcycle isn't the answer. This could be her family's only means of transportation, he says. Leaving her without a way to get around out here isn't solving anything.

He admits that the Border Police sometimes struggle when it comes to strict enforcement of the laws. Although the U.S. funded the Kilometer 35 checkpoint and has helped train Border Police, Costa Rica sets its own enforcement priorities.

"The U.S. trainers have the hardest time reminding Costa Rican trainees to stay alert," Barrantes said. "It's a cultural thing. We're more willing to let something go."

Another motorcycle approaches but makes a sudden u-turn when the driver sees the checkpoint. The officers don't pursue it.

The Invisible Border

"If you look right here, that's all Panama," Barrantes says as the truck snakes north up another gravel road toward Paso Canoas. There is no sign announcing the frontier. The road itself is the closest thing to a marker between the green field in Panama and the Costa Rica side.



The peaceful relationship between Costa Rica and Panama actually contributes to the illegal flow of immigrants and contraband, Barrantes says. The countries enjoy good relations, making a heavily-patrolled border seem unnecessary and counterproductive to trade and tourism.

In the town of Paso Canoas, you can walk into a store on the Costa Rican side and walk out on the Panamanian side. Vehicles with Panamanian license plates can drive as far as Ciudad Neily without checking in with Costa Rican authorities. The flow of people is so uninterrupted it appears at first glance to be a waste of money to pay a smuggler.

Barrantes drives along a stretch of road outside Paso Canoas and points out a crooked concrete pylon that's supposed to mark the border. "When people want to build something they'll just move the pylon," Barrantes says, standing in front of a cinderblock building that is mostly in Panama but likely crossing into Costa Rica.

The same, however, can't be said for the Nicaraguan border. Barrantes, who is from the northwestern province of Guanacaste and is regularly called to patrol Costa Rica's northern border, said the mood along Costa Rica's border with Nicaragua is more tense.

Across from Peñas Blancas, Costa Rica's busiest northern border town, the Nicaraguan military patrols. The government there has continued its policy from last November of refusing entry or passage to all migrants without visas.

"When Nicaragua closed its border, that's when the problems started," Barrantes says. The crackdown has created high demand for human smugglers.

The Public Security Ministry issued a news release on June 17 reporting that a Costa Rican smuggler was arrested trying to secret four African migrants across the border into Nicaragua. The smuggler reportedly charged \$750 to get the group across. Some African and Haitian migrants who have reached Mexico's border with the U.S. have told local reporters that getting through Nicaragua was among the toughest parts of their journey.

Heading back to the Kilometer 35 checkpoint, Barrantes reflects on the scope of the Border Police's job. "People have the idea that we're here to forcibly close the border," he says. "It's just not possible." (*The Tico Times*)

Denmark – Danish government extends temporary border controls with Germany until to November

Denmark has extended temporary border controls with Germany until November 12, according to immigration and integration minister Inger Støjberg.

"In this situation where a solution for securing Europe's external border has yet to be found, I am pleased that we are now extending border controls until at least November 12, 2016," Støjberg said. "We have to take care of our own borders, pending joint solutions at EU level."

Since first being imposed on January 4, controls at the German border have been extended six times.

In May, Denmark joined Sweden, Germany, Austria and France in asking the European Commission for permission to maintain border controls for six months. The European Commission and EU Council of Ministers has now agreed.

Dubai, UAE – Man jailed for smuggling bid in Dubai

A transit traveller was sentenced to 10 years in jail on June 7 over his bid to smuggle cocaine through a Dubai airport. The 36-year-old Nigerian was arrested on February 7 at the Dubai International Airport after customs officers suspected him of smuggling drugs in his gut.

The Dubai Court of First Instance ordered him to pay a Dh50,000 fine and ordered his deportation after completing his sentence.

According to the Crime Lab report, the 14 capsules the defendant had been trying to smuggle contained 253 grammes of cocaine. (*Khaleej Times*)

Dubai, UAE – 10-year jail for smuggling 1.5kg cocaine in gut

A man who was caught at the airport smuggling 1.5kg of cocaine was sentenced to 10 years in jail on June 16.

The Court of First Instance ordered the 37-year-old Nigerian to pay Dh100,000 in fine and that he be deported after completing his jail term. The transit traveller was caught on March 9 at the Dubai International Airport after customs officers suspected he had drugs in his gut.

The forensic report showed that the defendant had tried to smuggle 90 capsules containing cocaine. A police corporal said in the prosecution investigation: "I was assigned as a guard on him while he was at hospital. He stayed in the intensive care and dropped some of the capsules."

Surgery had to be conducted to remove the remaining capsules. When the defendant recovered, he was referred to the General Directorate of Narcotics. (*Khaleej Times*)

Dubai, UAE – Trio get 10-year jail terms after tramadol haul

Two businessmen and a worker have been jailed for 10 years each for importing nearly 9 million tramadol pills with the aim of peddling the contraband in Dubai. Customs officials at Dubai International Airport seized the tramadol pills after they found a discrepancy in the customs' declaration form, which mentioned medical equipment as the items being imported.



The tramadol pills were imported from India in three different consignments ostensibly to be exported to Iran via Dubai, according to records. Drug enforcement officers however discovered that all the consignments had been dispatched by the businessmen.

Drugs prosecutors had charged the two Iranian businessmen, J.A. and H.M., of importing mind-affecting substances for promotional purposes. A Bangladeshi worker, M.S., was charged with aiding and abetting the Iranian defendants.

Prosecutors filed three separate cases (3 million pills in each independent case) against J.A. and H.M. and referred them to the Dubai Court of First Instance.

When the defendants appeared in court, they denied the accusation that they imported the pills for sale locally. "The imported pills were not meant to be sold locally but that they were to be exported to Iran," H.M. told presiding judge Mohammad Jamal.

According to the judgement on June 26, presiding judge Jamal said the court has clubbed the three cases together and jailed the trio for 10 years each. "Each of the defendants will pay a Dh200,000 fine. They will be deported following the completion of their punishments," he said in courtroom three.

When asked if the imported items were banned pills, J.A. told the court: "I did not import the pills, H.M. did. I did not know that it was tramadol. The pills were not seized in our possession but they were at the airport's transit section. I knew that it is tramadol and we had imported it from India in order to export it to Iran via Dubai in transit. I had imported the products on J.A.'s name," argued H.M.

A customs inspector testified that the tramadol pills were seized after a discrepancy was detected between the listed contents of the consignment and the items stated on the customs' declaration.

"The declaration form read that the importer had brought medical equipment [whereas] the imported material was medicine. When we discovered a procedural error in the imported material, we seized the products. Immediately we asked the importing company to contact the owner of the products to collect the consignment; when the suspect arrived, we apprehended him," he said.

The defendants had flouted customs procedures willfully by claiming that they were importing medical equipment when in fact it was tramadol, said records. (*Gulf News*)

Dubai, UAE – Kids take pics with Dubai customs officer

In a humanitarian gesture, Hassan Ibrahim, Senior Inspection Officer in the Department of Passenger Operations at Dubai airport's Terminal 3, has fulfilled the wish of two Australian kids wishing to meet with the customs inspec-

for who appeared on National Geographic Abu Dhabi Channel and take pictures with him. Passengers, who were present in the transit lounge at Airport Terminal 3, witnessed the joy and happiness of the Australian family.



Ibrahim Ali Al Kamali, Operations Senior Manager at the Airport Terminal 3, said they co-ordinated with Dubai Airports Corporation to fulfill the wish of these two kids to meet with the customs inspector at the airport premises.

The Department of Passenger Operations received a message from Dubai Airports stating that the two Australian brothers, 8 and 11 years old, who suffer from autism, wished to meet Hassan Ibrahim. Ibrahim immediately welcomed the idea and personally took the initiative for putting it into effect.

Ibrahim explained that he was keen to fulfil the wish of the two children, stating that although he was off duty, he took the effort and went to the airport, dressed in complete uniform. He met the children's family, sat down with them, exchanged hearty talks, and presented souvenirs to them. The Australian family said they were traveling from London's Heathrow Airport to Perth in Australia via Dubai.

Based on the belief that the initiative was primarily humanitarian and considering that it reflected the civilized aspect of the United Arab Emirates, its government, and its people, necessary arrangements were taken in this respect by Dubai Customs, Dubai Airports and the airline. (Emirates 24/7)

Egypt – Man arrested for stealing more than 250 luxurious watches from Doha airport

Customs officials arrested a man at Cairo International Airport in Egypt for stealing luxurious watches from Hamad International Airport in Doha.



The man stole over 250 Rolex watches, worth millions of Qatari Riyals, from a shop at Hamad International Airport before boarding an EgyptAir flight June 6. The airport security authorities discovered the theft at 7am, a short while before EgyptAir took off from Doha.

The authorities coordinated with the Egyptian carrier, Cairo airport and the Interpol to arrest the man on his arrival at the Cairo International Airport. Police also seized the stolen watches from possession.

France – France can't arrest illegal immigrants – EU

The EU's highest court on June 7 inflicted a major blow on attempts to stop illegal immigrants trying to sneak into Britain.

In an extraordinary ruling, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) blasted France for imprisoning a refugee caught with a stolen passport at the entrance to the Channel Tunnel. It said the authorities were "not permitted" to lock up Ghanaian Selina Affum. Instead, she should have been released - giving her the chance to disappear and try again.

The ruling effectively means France cannot detain illegal immigrants when it catches them trying to sneak into Britain. Critics said the controversial judgment would potentially encourage thousands of people from outside Europe who want to slip into the UK unlawfully.

Miss Affum was held by French police at the Channel Tunnel entrance on a coach travelling from Ghent in Belgium to London in 2013. She had a false Belgian passport but possessed no other travel documents. She was placed in police custody and held in jail while officials waited to return her to Belgium. Under French law, illegal entry is punishable with up to a year in prison.

But the ECJ – which rules on issues of European Union law – said France had no right to detain her under EU rules. EU directives only allow imprisonment of illegal immigrants if they have already been booted out and are attempting to re-enter a country, or have committed another crime.

Imprisoning Miss Affum also breached a Brussels diktat called the Return Directive. This gives illegal immigrants the chance to voluntarily go home within 30 days if they are caught. They should not be detained while deportation proceedings are processed, unless they are at risk of absconding or resist moves to kick them out.

The directive does not apply to Britain, as we are not a member of Europe's passport-free Schengen zone. But many migrants who reach the continent hope to travel to the UK.

Justice minister Dominic Raab said: "This ruling threatens the integrity of our borders, and create serious risks for security. The ruling increases the risk that illegal immigrants will be able to enter the UK, as it weakens the ability of other EU governments to put in place proper checks. The EU is not fit for purpose, and the only way to take back control is to vote to Leave."

Germany – How a Chinese man hoping to tour Europe fell into Germany's refugee system

To Germans, he was the mysterious "refugee who wasn't," a 30-year-old man from Jilin Province in China who somehow got mistaken for a refugee and was swept up into Germany's vast processing system for two weeks.

That fate befell him even after German officials discovered — with the aid of a local Chinese restaurant worker and a translation app — that the man was not applying for asylum, but instead hoped to roam Europe as a tourist.

The man's odyssey apparently began at the Stuttgart airport on July 4. There, said Christoph Schlütermann, the German Red Cross official who eventually unraveled the mystery, he had been robbed of his wallet. He turned to airport police officers for help, but with the language barrier they evidently mistook him for someone seeking asylum, Mr. Schlütermann said.

As is routine for asylum seekers, he was taken to a processing center — in this case in Heidelberg, normally a popular Chinese tourist destination. From there, he was sent to another refugee reception center in Dortmund, and from there to the Westphalian town of Dülmen. Mr. Schlütermann, who runs the former British Army base there with beds for about 200 refugees, said the man arrived there July 8.

A colleague alerted Mr. Schlütermann to what he believed was the traveler's odd behavior. "Something is wrong," the assistant told his boss. Eventually, the Red Cross enlisted a translation app and the help of an employee from a nearby Chinese restaurant and discovered the error, Mr. Schlütermann said.

It took several more days of calling consulates, embassies and German functionaries to recover the man's passport. He eventually left Dülmen on July 20, apparently headed for his original destinations in France and Italy.

Ghana – New law to allow Immigration officers to carry firearms

The Interior Ministry has announced a new law passed recently by Parliament makes it legal for personnel of the service to carry arms.



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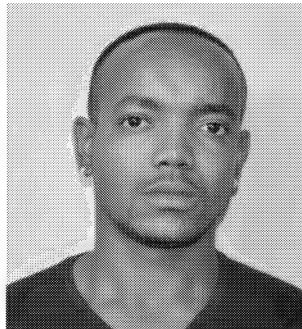
Deputy Interior Minister, James Agalga announced this at a forum in the Central Region on June 20. According to him, the new law will help the Immigration Service in their work. "We recently passed some legislation which now allows the Ghana Immigration Service to possess firearms and particular the border patrol unit of the service is now allowed to carry firearms at the various border crossings."

He was hopeful that the move will boost their confidence in protecting the country's borders.

"Hitherto, the Ghana Immigration service was not allowed to carry firearms so the border patrol units police our borders literally with their bare hands, so government found it very necessary and compelling to pass the legislation," he added.

Guyana – Cocaine mule recruiters charged

Two men long suspected of hiring cocaine mules to export the illicit drug out of Guyana were on June 3 slapped with charges of procuring at least three persons. They are Rolston Bacchus and Troy Sauers, also known as Randy, Muslim and Biggs.



They appeared before Chief Magistrate McLennan to answer the charges. Bacchus and Sauers, who have previous narco-trafficking offences before the courts, were refused bail and remanded to prison.

Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit alleged that Bacchus procured Kathleen De Florimonte, a former security officer at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport, and Odessa Pollard, to traffic in a total of 12.348 kilogrammes of cocaine between July and November, 2015.

Sauers is accused of committing a similar offence with

Safraz Jallalodeen for the trafficking of more than 6 kilogrammes of cocaine between April 1 and May 19, 2016. Jallalodeen was sentenced to four years imprisonment and fined GYD\$16.3 million for being in possession of 12 pounds of cocaine in milk for the purpose of trafficking. He was caught at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport.

CANU agents said they have been watching Sauers and Bacchus for at least three years now.

The Chief Magistrate upheld objections by the CANU Prosecutor to bail being granted. The Prosecutor said Sauers was already before the Providence Magistrates' Court for a trafficking in narcotics charge dating back to March 4, 2016 and for which he was on GYD\$1.5 million bail. He is also on GYD\$1 million bail for two related matters. (*Demerara Waves*)

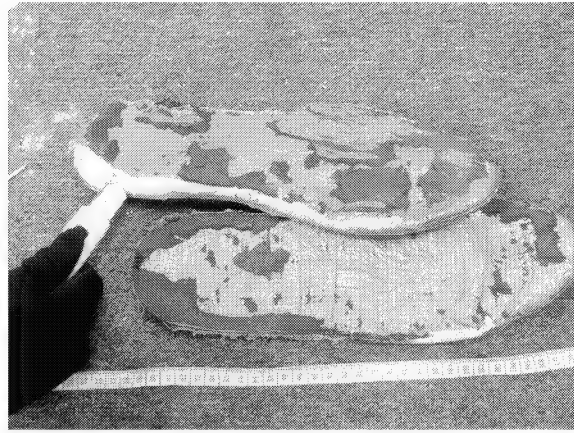
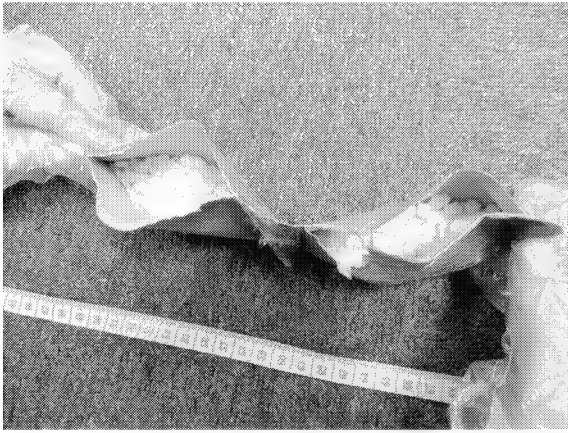
Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes cocaine at airport

Hong Kong Customs seized about 1.1 kilogrammes of cocaine at Hong Kong International Airport June 11, and arrested an incoming male passenger.

The arrested man arrived at Hong Kong from Madagascar via Nairobi, Kenya and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia June 11. During customs clearance, Customs officers found his shoes and a wallet inside a hand-carry briefcase were abnormally heavy. Upon further checking, false compartments were found in the wallet and soles of the shoes. The batch of cocaine was found inside the false compartments.

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The arrested person, aged 31 and claimed to be a student, will be charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. He will appear at Tsuen Wan Magistrates' Courts.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes ivory and dried seahorses at airport

Hong Kong Customs detected two cases of endangered species smuggling at the Air Mail Centre of Hong Kong International Airport June 21. About three kilogrammes of ivory and about 29.6 kg of dried seahorses were seized from an inbound air parcel and six inbound air parcels respectively, worth about \$60,000 in total.

Upon Customs clearance, Customs officers screened an inbound air parcel declared as toys and sent from South Africa to Hong Kong. Suspicious images were found under X-ray inspection. Customs officers opened the parcel and found the ivory.



In another six inbound air parcels declared as dried food and sent from India to Hong Kong, Customs officers found dried seahorses concealed inside.

The cases were handed over to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for follow-up.



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Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes cocaine at the airport

Hong Kong Customs seized about 2.1 kilograms of cocaine, with a market value of about \$2.2 million, at Hong Kong International Airport July 14 and arrested an incoming male passenger.

The arrested male arrived at Hong Kong from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil via Dubai July 14. During Customs clearance, Customs officers spotted suspicious X-ray images inside his suitcase. Upon thorough examination, a total of 3 slabs of cocaine weighing about 2.1 kilograms was found concealed inside false compartments of the suitcase and a backpack placed inside the suitcase.

The arrested male, aged 21 and claimed to be unemployed, was charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug.

Hong Kong – Enter the dragon fruit: liquid cocaine worth HK\$15 million found injected into 98 fruits arriving at Hong Kong airport from Colombia

Liquid cocaine with an estimated street value of HK\$15.7 million was found concealed in the hollow centres of 98 dragon fruits arriving at the airport from South America, customs officers revealed. It was the first time such a method of drug concealment had been discovered in Hong Kong in about two decades.

The haul came after a team of customs officers at Hong Kong International Airport spent more than four hours opening 160 boxes and checking nearly 2,000 dragon fruits – also known as pitayas – one by one on July 19, two days after the air freight arrived from Colombia via Britain.



Describing the concealment method as “sophisticated” and “innovative”, a source said: “Part of the fruit layer was peeled off and pulp was removed before liquid cocaine was injected into the hollow centre and the layer glued back on. From appearance, it was hard to distinguish the ones concealing illegal drugs. Officers had to inspect them one by one.”

He said the 98 dragon fruits containing the drug were spread out over 50 boxes among other fruits that had not been tampered with. “Each dragon fruit carried about 130 grams of liquid cocaine. A total of 15kg of liquid cocaine was seized inside the 98 fruits. The haul has an estimated street value of HK\$15.7 million,” the source said.

A lorry driver, 36, was arrested when he tried to pick up the consignment at the airport’s cargo terminal on July 19. By lunchtime July 20, the Hongkonger was still being held for questioning and had not been charged.

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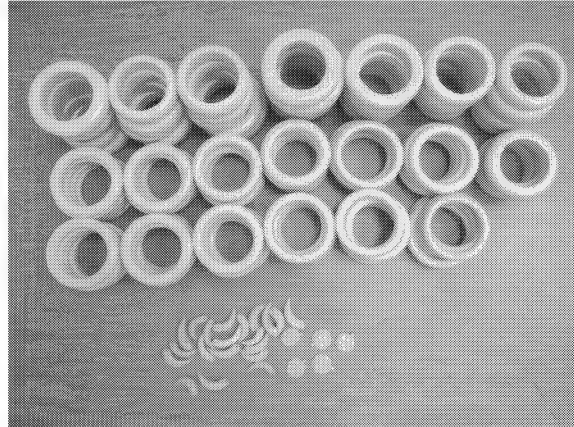
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One of the reasons the consignment was chosen for inspection was because fresh fruit coming from overseas by air would usually be picked up on the day of arrival at the airport.

The seizure comes after a series of other recent drug busts in the city. On July 16, customs officers found 1kg of cocaine concealed in the hollow centres of 17 candles in an airmail parcel from Brazil. In a follow-up raid, officers seized another 1kg of the drug and arrested three women in a Yau Ma Tei flat on July 19.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes worked ivory at airport

Hong Kong Customs seized about 8 kilograms of worked ivory, worth about \$80,000, and arrested an incoming male passenger at Hong Kong International Airport July 27.



Customs officers intercepted a 36-year-old male passenger at the airport July 27. The passenger arrived in Hong Kong from Lagos, Nigeria, via Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During Customs clearance, Customs officers found about 8kg of suspected worked ivory inside his one piece of luggage. The case was handed over to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for follow-up investigation.

Hong Kong – Hong Kong Customs seizes cocaine at the airport



Hong Kong Customs seized about 720 grams of cocaine with a market value of about \$750,000 at Hong Kong International Airport July 30 and arrested an incoming female passenger.

The arrested female arrived at Hong Kong from Manila, the Philippines July 30. During Customs clearance, Customs officers spotted suspicious X-ray images inside her handbag. Upon thorough examination, a total of 2 slabs of cocaine weighed about 330 grams and 390 grams were found concealed inside the false compartments of the handbag.

The arrested female, aged 37 and claimed to be a telephone operator, will be charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug.

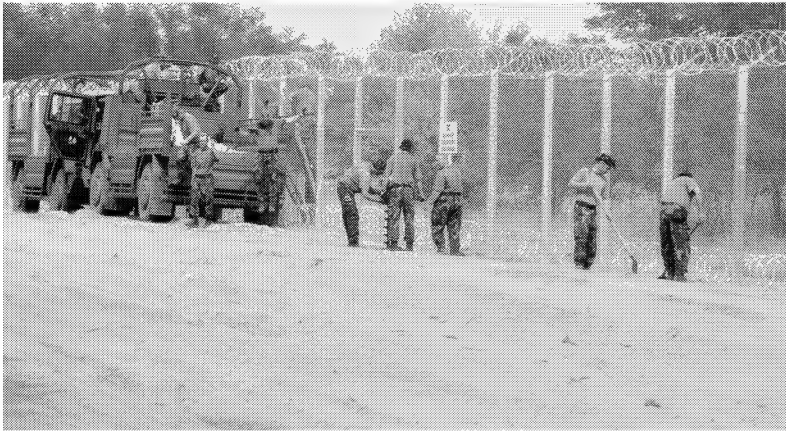
Hungary – Hungary border fence accomplishes purpose

It runs nearly 109 miles and stands 13 feet tall. Its sharp edges touch three countries. The steel-wire fence that Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán ordered built last summer to block refugees from entering his country has accomplished its purpose, slowing the flow of border crossings to a trickle.



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And despite widespread initial condemnation, Orbán set in motion a chain reaction across Europe as countries sought to cope with a seemingly endless stream of migrants. Fences have since been built in Austria, Slovakia and Slovenia, while Hungary has extended its fence to Croatia and announced it will build another along its border with Romania.

Moreover, the EU's 30-year-old policy of passport free travel is under challenge; Hungary, Norway, Sweden, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Belgium, France and Denmark all have instituted border controls.

"In a democracy, in a normal situation, there are certain rules for entering a country," Hungary's Justice Minister, László Trócsányi, said in an interview. "I don't like barbed wire or borders, but unchecked, uncontrolled entry is not permissible. There are security issues, and we didn't have any solutions and thousands were crossing."

Asylum seekers now avoid the Hungarian boundary wall, where they face a phalanx of police, military patrols and coiled razor wire, all of which send a very clear message: Refugees are not welcome.



Construction of the fence along the Hungarian-Serbian border began in June 2015 and concluded just a few months later. The Hungarian government spent an estimated \$120 million on the fence, a price kept relatively low by the flat topography and the manpower of 300 prisoners and more than 900 soldiers.

A direct line drawn from Greece to Germany — the favored destination of a large percentage of migrants — puts Hungary right in the middle of the path. And as recently as last summer, hundreds of thousands of refugees were spilling through Hungary, seeking passage to the wealthier countries of Europe.

From July through September of 2015, more than 140,000 people crossed the southern border of Hungary from Serbia alone, according to a quarterly report released by Frontex, a European agency established in 2004 by the 28-member European Union to help border authorities from different countries work together.

At the peak of the crisis, up to 12,000 people were crossing the Hungarian-Serbian border illegally every single day, according to the report.

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In August of last year, German Prime Minister Angela Merkel's announcement that her country would accept refugees who made it into the country spurred even more migration. Then, in September, the wall went up, and hundreds of thousands of refugees were suddenly unable to continue their journeys or had to seek alternate routes.

Frustration led to fights and confrontations between police and refugees near the village of Röszke in Hungary. "Now what happens when there is a flow of people, people are at the other side, trying to come to Hungary, trying to break in," Balázs said. "There were some aggressive scenes."

When Hungary's fence on the Serbian border was completed on Sept. 15, 2015, the number of those crossing illegally decreased dramatically overnight. On Sept. 15, 9,000 illegal crossings were detected, the Frontex report said. A day later, the number was a mere 410.

But it wasn't only the fence that stopped the migrants. It was an influx of police and soldiers from all over the country that the Hungarian government sent to patrol the southern border. Since Hungary and many European countries have for years allowed open, borderless-travel, they don't have standing border patrols of their own.



Five guards stationed along the fence near Röszke at the Hungarian/Serbian border told reporters that they are stationed every half-mile, for a total force of 400 to 500 police per shift. They said that number did not include Hungarian soldiers who also patrol the border.

When asked if they thought the fence worked, the guards said refugees are able to cut through the cyclone fence, thus the importance of patrols. Just two days earlier, they said, 200 people were caught trying to cut down a part of the fence.

During the conversation, a radio call came in. Someone was attempting to cross over the razor-wire fence, a voice said. One soldier stepped back to take the call,

while the others stayed put. They, too, wanted information. They were interested in the U.S.-Mexico border, asking what the fence was made of and if police were also deployed to patrol it.

When they learned that the U.S. has a separate border patrol and agents ride ATVs, bicycles, horses and other vehicles to patrol the nearly 2,000-mile southern perimeter, they laughed. "We should go there and ask them how it's done," one of the Hungarian guards quipped.

In February, Orbán announced the building of a new 280-mile fence, this time to the east along the border with Romania.

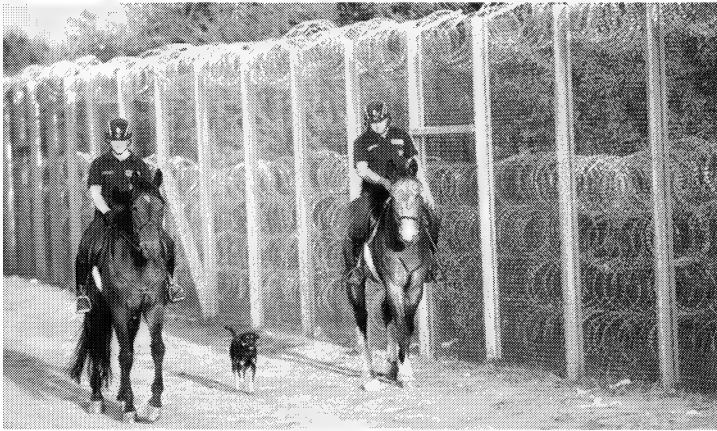
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Though Romania is a member of the European Union, it is not a part of the 26 countries that belong to the Schengen agreement for passport-free travel. Under that agreement, every EU citizen is guaranteed the fundamental right to travel, work and live in any EU country without special formalities or passports.

More than 400 million EU citizens are protected under the "Border-Free Schengen Area," and the rights are extended to tourists or others legally present on EU soil, according to the European Commission's Migration and Home Affairs Department.

Trócsányi, Hungary's justice minister, said building fences helps preserve Schengen. "I explained on the one hand that there is this thing called the Schengen border complex and as the European Union state being the external border of Schengen, we had the duty and the obligation to protect the Schengen border," Trócsányi said.

Some, however, think differently, including Balázs, the former Hungarian minister of Foreign Affairs. He said other factors must be considered. "The Schengen agreement is not working anymore," he said. "It would need the voluntary cooperation of all people who cross any border. It presupposes that people have documents, (that) they are ready to justify their identity or show their documents." (*Tri-Valley Dispatch*)

India – Foreign currency worth Rs 11.7 million seized

In a major crackdown on currency smuggling racket, the Kozhikode unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on June 6 midnight conducted a clandestine operation at Karipur international airport and nabbed two passengers who were carrying foreign currencies worth Rs 11.7 million (\$221,950).

The operation was carried out based on specific intelligence and the arrested passengers were identified as Poyil Sajeer and Poyil Muhammed Shareef. The two were at the airport to catch a Spicejet flight to Dubai.

The seized currencies were Saudi Arabian Riyal, UAE Dirham and Qatari Riyal. The currencies were concealed inside rice and rice flake packets in their luggage.

India – Smugglers use RGIA ground staff to escape customs check

The arrest of an Air India SATS (AISATS) employee by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence sleuths for smuggling gold at the RGI Airport on June 10 clearly indicates how gold smugglers have managed to circumvent the system and lure the ground crew.



On June 10, the DRI sleuths kept watch on a passenger who had arrived by an Emirates flight from Dubai. Near the aero-bridge, he handed over 28 gold bars (weighing 3.26 kilos) wrapped in black duct tape to a 26-year-old AISATS ground-handling staffer. They nabbed the two and remanded them in judicial custody on June 11.

In the latest arrest, the AISATS worker was assigned to supervise the ground-handling staff for the Emirates flight. "The AISATS worker collected the gold bars from the carrier to take it out of the airport, bypassing the customs check area," a DRI official said. The AISATS worker identified the 'carrier' through a photo received on WhatsApp from a Dubai-based handlers. (*The Times of India*)

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India – 3 grads arrested with ‘fake’ Schengen visas at airport

Three graduates from Punjab who were to board a flight from Mumbai for Lisbon on June 9, were detained during the immigration check at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport for travelling on fake Schengen visas.



The three Sikh youths, aged around 22, were formally arrested on June 11; they helped Sahar police nab Delhi-based agent Gaurav Anand (26) the next day for allegedly providing them with fake visas. While Anand told cops that he is a “book publisher”, police suspect a “big” visa racket.

Following November’s terror attacks in Paris and this March’s in Brussels, “getting Schengen visas has become time-consuming and, to a certain extent, difficult,” say travel agents.

The three got in touch with Anand for a visa to travel to Estonia. “They planned to somehow reach Estonia to seek asylum in that country. However, their plan was hampered as immigration officials found discrepancies in their visa stamps,” said Sahar police senior inspector B T Mukhedkar. The officials handed them over to the police.

Preliminary investigations, say cops, show the three paid Rs 70,000 each to Anand. “As per the agent’s instruction, the trio took a flight from Delhi for Mumbai along with some person who represented the agent, on June 9 to fly to Lisbon. They said they had no idea the visa was fake.”

Cops said the accused prepared the visa after collecting visa format details from the internet and taking printouts on a special paper. “It appears that in the past, they may have managed to fly people out using a similar modus operandi.”

Based on immigration officials’ complaint, Anand and the three students were booked under the Indian Penal Code sections 34 (common intention), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 465 (forgery), 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating) and 471 (using as genuine a forged document or electronic record).

India – Foreign currency smuggling on the rise

Customs sleuths at the Cochin International Airport on June 14 detained a Dubai-bound passenger who attempted to smuggle assorted foreign currencies equivalent to Rs.6.705 million (\$129,000).

The passenger had completed the check-in when sleuths intercepted him on suspicion that he was carrying some contraband. A detailed examination of his checked-in baggage showed bundles of foreign currencies concealed in false cavities. Based on the finding, the person was booked under provisions of the *Customs Act*.

Considering a rise in the flow of greenback bundles through Kerala airports, Customs is regularly maintaining surveillance over passengers bound for sensitive places such as Dubai, Sri Lanka and Malaysia. (*The Hindu*)

India – 21,000 microchips concealed in chocolate boxes seized at KIA

Customs Intelligence officials at the Kempegowda International Airport have arrested a woman who was trying to sneak in 21,700 microchips that she had concealed in seven boxes of chocolates.

The accused, Shilpa Sonawadekar, who had arrived from Dubai, was caught on June 12 when officials identified the 4 GB and 8 GB chips through the luggage scanners. They are estimated to be worth Rs. 4.2 million.

Initial investigations revealed that Ms. Sonawadekar, who had gone to Dubai on a tourist visa, worked as carrier for a gang involved in an electronic goods smuggling racket.

This is second case of haul of memory chips this month. On June 5, Customs officials arrested Rosy Bhatia (41) for attempting to smuggle in 31,520 microchips worth Rs. 6.3 million from Hong Kong. (*The Hindu*)

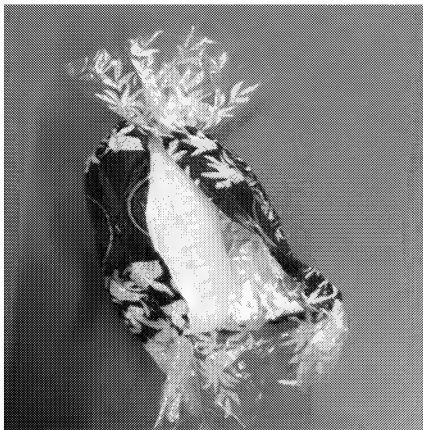
India – 4 arrested at IGI Airport with cocaine inside chocolate wrappers

Drug enforcement agencies on June 22 busted an international drug racket and arrested four foreign nationals for trying to smuggle cocaine inside chocolates wrapped in foil.



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Manana Victoria Makhalema from South Africa, Makoroti Esnath from Zimbabwe, Muhammad Khairul Nizzam from Malaysia and Mafanya Ntombovuyo from South Africa were arrested after Directorate of Revenue Intelligence officials at Delhi airport opened the chocolate wrappers and found some light-coloured pellets with the chocolate inside the wrapper. Forensic examination revealed that these pellets were filled with cocaine.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the chocolates were handed over to the four accused at the Dubai airport and were meant to be delivered to a man named John, who is from Nigeria and currently residing in Delhi. The four landed at the Capital in an Emirates flight.

While the four foreigners have been arrested, police are on the lookout for the main accused. (*India Today*)

India – Heroin worth Rs 400 million seized from two passengers at Chennai airport

Officials of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have seized heroin worth Rs 400 million from two Colombo-bound passengers at Chennai airport. The passengers and an airline staffer have been detained for enquiry.

According to DRI sources, the narcotic substance was seized from the duo's suitcases in the intervening night of June 22 and 23. They had concealed the 40 kg heroin in their suitcases among packets of sugar and maida, DRI sources said, adding an airline staffer had helped them in carrying it. The three, all Indian citizens, have been detained and interrogation was on, they said.

Meanwhile, DRI officials on June 24 seized unaccounted US currency, valued around Rs 3 million, from a Colombo-bound passenger. The passenger was being interrogated, they said.

India – Action-packed day at airport

DRI officials on June 24 seized Rs 400 million worth of drugs and Rs 3 million in foreign currency in a series of raids at the city airport.

DRI officials on June 24 seized Rs 3 million worth of unaccounted foreign currency from Abdul Razak, a Colombo bound passenger. The money was found while checking the luggage of Razak. Investigation was being carried out to know if it was hawala money.



On June 23, a team of seven DRI officials conducted raids in the customs section of the international airport following a tip off regarding smuggling of drugs and foreign currencies.

"While checking the belongings of Masood and Rafeeq from Mannadi in Chennai out of suspicion, DRI officials found 40 kg of heroin hidden between sugar and maize packets the passengers carried in their suitcase," sources added.

Meanwhile, police caught an airport staff carrying 120 foreign liquor bottles outside the airport that were seized from the passengers. (*News Today*)

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India – Psychotropic substance seized at airport

Officers seized 4.05 kg of methamphetamine which was being smuggled by H. Mohamed Fazul Haq, a Malaysia-bound passenger, at the airport in Tiruchi in the late hours on June 30.

The accused was arrested and produced before a judicial magistrate court in Tiruchi. Officials said Mohamed Fazul Haq came to the airport to board a Malindo Air flight to Kuala Lumpur on June 30. Acting on intelligence, officers of the Air Intelligence and Central Intelligence Units of Tiruchi Customs examined the baggage of Mohamed and found the substance concealed in a specially made pack inside the bottom part of a bag.

He was arrested as methamphetamine is a psychotropic substance, possession, sale, transport and export of which is prohibited under Section 8 (c) of the *Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985*.

On June 13, Customs officers seized 8.35 kg of methamphetamine in the international market from D. Santhosh Kumar. He was proceeding to Malaysia via Colombo by a Sri Lankan Airlines flight when he was caught.

India – Three flyers held for assault on immigration officers at Mumbai airport

The Sahar police on July 5 arrested three flyers for manhandling and assaulting two immigration officials at the international airport. The accused—brothers Amit (30) and Deepak Sawant (27) and Rajesh Killa (45) from Gujarat—were among the passengers protesting near the Air India counter after their Mumbai-Delhi flight was delayed on July 5.

“The accused said they were annoyed because there was no proper information about the reason for delay. When the immigration officials intervened to stop the protest, the three men, along with other AI passengers, pushed and assaulted them,” said a police officer. “Hemant Badhe was manhandled when he intervened and tried to stop the flyers for mistreating and assaulting his colleague Mukeshkumar Jain.” Deputy commissioner of police Virendra Mishra said a case has been registered in this regard.

The immigration officials, according to the police, became scapegoats as the AI officials, with whom the flyers were arguing, didn’t come forward with a complaint.

In the police complaint, Badhe said, “Jain asked the protesting flyers to clear the passage near the immigration check and its office which is near the AI counter. Some of them were clicking pictures on their mobile phones of the protest and the assault. When Jain asked them to clear the area, they charged at him. When I went to pacify them, they charged at me too.”

The three accused were handed over to the police, who booked them under IPC sections 34 (common intention) and 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty). They were produced before a local court on July 5, which granted them bail. (*The Times of India*)

India – Tajikistan woman held for gold smuggling

A woman from Tajikistan has been arrested for trying to smuggle in gold worth Rs 8.5 million at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. The accused was intercepted by customs officials after her arrival from Dushanbe.

“She was carrying gold in raw form in her purse. On detailed examination of her baggage, we recovered the yellow metal,” Vinayak Azaad, additional commissioner of customs at the airport, said. “The gold weighing 2.7 kg has been seized and the passenger arrested on July 16. The value of the gold is assessed to be around Rs 8,513,000. Tajikistan’s embassy in New Delhi has been informed about the arrest,” he added. (*The Asian Age*)

India – Man carrying fake passport held

An Indian national, allegedly carrying a fake **Canadian** work permit was detained at the IGI Airport on July 18. The accused, Uditnarayan Prasad, first went to Dubai on a tourist visa and then managed to go to Iraq with the help of a local agent who later arranged a fake Canadian work permit for him.

Sources said, the man, who is a resident of Kushi Nagar (UP), arrived at the IGI Airport from Dubai. He ran out of luck when he went for immigration clearance where the officials got suspicious of his travel documents. On scrutiny of his passport it was found that the work permit affixed on one of the pages on the passport was a colour photocopy, which was not genuine as there was no UV feature available in it.

The accused later revealed that he departed from India for Dubai in December last year on a tourist visa. On reaching Dubai he managed to get an Iraqi work visa through a local agent and went to Iraq in January this year. Later the same agent arranged a fake Canadian work permit for the accused.

The police has filed a case of forgery against the accused and is investigating the matter.

India – Bangladeshi nabbed with fake Indian passport

A 28-year-old Bangladeshi national has been arrested from the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport while trying to fly to Riyadh on a fake Indian passport.

Abdul Hakim Bakar, who was going to Riyadh from Delhi for a job, was caught by immigration officials on July 18 after they suspected something amiss and scrutinized his passport only to find discrepancies. Immigration officials handed Bakar over to Sahar police on July 22 after questioning him for five days.

“He has said he is from Bangladesh and got an Indian passport from an agent in Delhi using forged documents. Probe is under way to nab the agent who made the fake passport,” Sahar police senior inspector BT Mukhedkar said.

“The immigration officials suspected Bakar, so they checked his passport data. They found that the passport has been procured using fake documents such as PAN and address proof,” an investigator said, adding that Bakar has been tight-lipped about the agent.

Bakar has been booked under IPC sections 419 (personation), 420 (cheating), 465 (forgery), 467 (forgery of valuable security), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating) and 471 (using as genuine a forged document or electronic record). He is also booked under the *Indian Passport Act and Foreigners Act*. (*The Times of India*)

India – 500 star turtles seized at Chennai airport

In a major seizure, the customs and wildlife crime control bureau on July 28 seized 500 star turtles at the Chennai airport that was being smuggled to Malaysia in a Thai Airways flight. Thai Airways officials grew suspicious when they found something suspicious moving inside the thermocol boxes that were to be uploaded as cargo in the flight. They alerted the customs, who opened the boxes and found nearly 500 star turtles bundled in cloth bags.

The wildlife crime control bureau officials also confirmed that they are star tortoise, whose export is banned. In each of the cloth bag, about ten tortoise were bundled and they were placed inside the thermocol boxes. The exporter, identified as Cosmic Exports with office at Ambattur in Chennai, had declared that the consignment contains crab. The export company's owner has been identified as one Rajavelan and further investigations are on if the company was involved in the smuggling or some other middlemen were involved.

India – Foreign currency seized at international airport



Customs officials in Amritsar seized around 4.9 Venezuelan Bolivars, equivalent to around Rs 3.28 million (\$64,000) from a passenger Mohammad Anwar, a resident of Delhi.

A release issued by the department on July 30 informed that Anwar arrived at Amritsar's international airport on board Air India flight IX192 from Dubai.

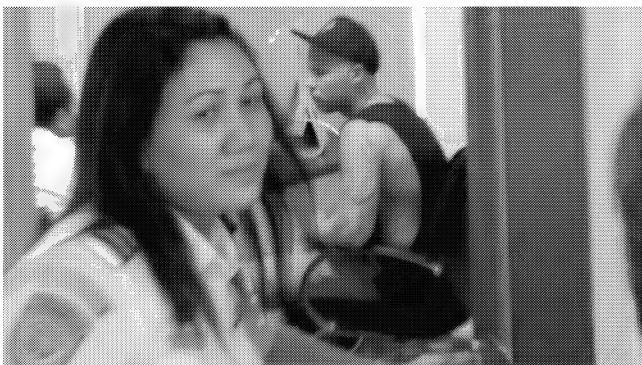
The passenger had concealed currency in his baggage and two speakers. Anwar was arrested under the provision of *Customs Act 1962* for importing illegal foreign currency but was released on bail after confiscation of Venezuelan Bolivars. (*The Times of India*)

Indonesia – Australian Aaron Dolden who 'joked' about jumping off plane banned from Indonesia for 6 months

An Australian tourist who "joked" about jumping off an AirAsia flight to Bali has been banned from returning to Indonesia for six months. Aaron Gerrard Dolden, 25, from Sydney, was detained on arrival at Bali's Ngurah Rai International Airport on May 27 after he was accused of endangering the safety of the flight under aviation law.

Airport authority officer Ade Yuliana said AirAsia crew reported Dolden said he would jump from the plane before the meal was served.

Mr Ade said on June 10 Mr Dolden had been found not to be in breach of aviation law. However he and another man, Pasalic Alen, 27, would be banned by the Immigration Department from visiting Indonesia for six months for being unruly passengers. "Let this be a lesson, that everybody has to obey the law of the country, wherever they are," Mr Ade said.



Mr Dolden, Mr Alen and nine friends had been travelling on a Sydney to Denpasar flight for a week's holiday in Bali.

An airport authority letter said it had been determined the "unruly act" was carried out under the influence of excessive alcohol and was not premeditated. It was also determined the incident was not related to any mental disorder or radical movement.

In an unruly passenger flight explanation letter, crew reported that the group had made a nuisance of themselves by repeatedly pushing the button requesting a flight attendant, asking crew for beer and bothering other passengers. They also reportedly made fun of crew members, blocked the toilets and made a "recording of a crew's body with phone".

Mr Ade said the AirAsia crew reported a man saying he would jump from the plane before the meal was served. "There were a group of 11 men near the lavatory. They were noisy," he said.

In an interview with AirAsia safety and security officer Suradi Haryanto, Mr Dolden said he was only joking and didn't mean he would jump off the plane.

"I was chatting with another group of young men, talking about skydiving," Mr Dolden said according to the transcript. "At that time my friend said he often goes skydiving and I joked back by saying: 'Don't worry I will be the first person to jump from the plane right now'. The crew talked to me and said I couldn't say that and that security would be called upon arrival. I then said: 'We are not scared of security'."

Mr Ade said airport authorities had contacted the immigration department, who would soon return Mr Dolden's passport. "Upon which he will return to his country soon," Mr Ade said. "He's also been blacklisted from entering Indonesia for the next six months. He is not under arrest." (*The Sydney Morning Herald*)

Indonesia – Aussie who alleges he was 'tortured' at Denpasar airport apparently boasted about passing acid through Bali Customs on Snapchat

There are two sides to every story, but it's kind of hard to take an Aussie man's recent abuse allegations at face value when Australian authorities say he was drunk and his quickly circulating post from Snapchat shows him bragging about drug smuggling.

A Facebook status posted by Matt Akker went viral when the 21-year-old Perth man said he was violently detained upon arrival June 23 at Ngurah Rai Airport for over 10 hours. "I was shoved to the ground and assaulted by a group of men that work for the airport," Akker's status reads. "They took turn kicking the shit out of me then sticky tapped (sic) my hands tightly behind my back and my legs together then continued to kick into me."

Perhaps the scariest part of Akker's status though was the death threats: "They were talking about how easily they could kill me."



However, Balinese Police said that they had no reports of an Australian man being detained, while Australian authorities said Akker was drunk and disorderly.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) told Akker's family that the apprentice tattoo artist was drunk on the flight to Bali and he was belligerent to staff when pulled aside at Bali Airport. DFAT said Akker was even still too intoxicated to fly back the next morning to Australia.

Akker has denied he was drunk: "I had a couple of drinks before at the bar, but like not even to the level of drunk," he told reporters. But his credibility sure is questionable after he snapped "Guess who got acid past customs".

Kids, this is certainly a valuable lesson that what you post to social media can come right back to haunt you.

Akker has already been returned back to Perth.

Indonesia – Officers thwart smuggling of 72 kg in narcotics

A joint team from the Finance Ministry's Directorate General of Customs and Excise and the National Police have foiled an attempt to smuggle in 72 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine, locally known as sabu-sabu, from Nigerian and Malaysian drug rings.



The National Police's director of narcotics division, Brig. Gen. Dharma Pongrekun, told journalists that the Nigerian syndicate had shipped the drugs on two occasions, on July 20 and July 25. "On July 18 we received information that 33.5 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine would be sent from Cameroon to Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, via Turkey," he said.

Two days later, the police teamed up with Soekarno-Hatta's customs officers and tailed the suspected couriers, identified only by initials ZL and MN, both Indonesians, from the airport before

arresting them on the Cibubur toll road in East Jakarta along with 33.5 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine packed inside four air jet filter tubes that were seized as evidence.

The suspects revealed that another 28.5 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine would be shipped through Soekarno-Hatta airport on July 25. It was later found that the narcotics had been hidden inside three air jet filter tubes and a cereal box.

The suspects will be charged with violating Narcotics Law No. 35/2009 articles 112 and 114. The suspects could face the death penalty. (*The Jakarta Post*)

Ireland – Student agreed to transport almost €140k worth of cocaine from Spain into Dublin ‘to earn money for college fees’

An English language student agreed to transport cocaine because he needed money to pay college fees, a court has heard. Lucas Lima (25) was offered between €1,000 and €3,000 to bring a bag containing €139,650 in cocaine from Spain into Dublin.

The Brazilian national, with an address at Mountjoy Square, Dublin, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court, to importation of drugs at Dublin Airport on January 11, 2016.

Lima was picked up by Revenue officials at the airport using customs profiling techniques. He was returning from a two day trip to Barcelona and had an extra suitcase with him. When stopped, customs officers found three plastic bottles in the second case. The bottle lids were glued tight and when forced open they contained cocaine.

Lima told gardai that he met a Brazilian man who knew Lima didn't have enough money to cover these costs. This man offered to pay him on completing the delivery of the package from Spain. Garda Kevin Nolan said that Lima knew he'd be bringing something illicit or illegal. He agreed he was naive to get involved.

Judge Elma Sheahan said she wanted time to consider her verdict and adjourned sentencing. (*Irish Independent*)

Ireland – Revenue seizes 30,800 cigarettes in Dublin Airport

Two Moldovan men were brought before Dublin Circuit Court 22/06/2016 on charges relating to the seizure of 30,800 cigarettes at Dublin airport 18/06/16.



The men, aged 26 and 27, each pleaded guilty to an offence under section 119 of the *Finance Act 2001*, evasion of excise duty with intent to defraud the State. Revenue officers found the smuggled “Marlboro Gold” cigarettes in the men’s checked-in baggage, when they arrived in Dublin June 16. The men were arrested and, in Dublin Circuit Court June 22, Judge Smith sentenced each man to six months imprisonment, suspended on condition that they leave the country within 24 hours, and fined them €2,500 each.

The smuggled cigarettes have a retail value in excess of €16,000, representing a potential loss to the Exchequer of almost €13,000.

Ireland – Irish man spent bet winnings on huge amount of cigs which he tried to hide from customs

A Donegal man, who tried to save money by spending his winnings from a bet on cheap cigarettes in Spain, has been hit with a €2,500 fine. Adrian McMonagle (40) from Donegal, pleaded guilty to a charge under the *Finance Act* for evasion of duty on 12,000 cigarettes which were seized at Dublin Airport on March 5 last year.

Judge John O'Neill heard at Dublin District Court that he was stopped at the green channel at Terminal 1, after he flew back from Barcelona in Spain.

Customs officers found in his luggage 12,000 John Player blue cigarettes which had Spanish tax stamps. He revealed that he had bought them from €2,400. He told customs officials they were for himself and for a brother and he was not going to receive payment. The loss of revenue to the State was €3,600, Judge O'Neill heard.

Judge O'Neill noted that the father-of-four had a good work history but has been on disability allowance since 2003 as a result of health problems. He had no prior criminal convictions and was in difficult financial circumstances, his solicitor said, adding that his client did it to save money and was not planning to sell them. He used money he won on a bet to buy them, the court was told.

Judge O'Neill said he took into account the guilty plea and lack of previous criminal convictions. He remitted the fine to €2,500 which must be paid within four months. (*Sunday World*)

Ireland – Revenue seizes 11kg cocaine worth over €750,000 in Dublin Airport

On 27/06/16, Revenue officers seized over 11kg cocaine when, as a result of routine profiling, they stopped a 25 year old Irish man who arrived at Dublin Airport on a flight from Paris. A search of the passenger's suitcase revealed four apparently empty rucksacks, each of which was found to have a concealment of cocaine sewn into the back panel. The value of the drugs is in excess of €750,000.



The passenger was arrested at the scene by an Garda Síochána and conveyed to Ballymun Garda Station. He appeared in court 28/06/16 charged with the sale, supply and importation of drugs and was remanded in custody.

Ireland – Revenue seizes 42kg khat in Dublin Airport

On 04/07/16, Revenue officers in Dublin Airport seized approximately 42kg of Khat. Following routine profiling, a 45 year old Dutch national who arrived into Dublin on a flight from Abu Dhabi was stopped and questioned.

The man was arrested and appeared before Judge Hamill in Dublin Circuit Court. He was remanded until July 12.

Ireland – Revenue seizes 37kg khat in Dublin Airport



On 09/07/16, Revenue officers in Dublin Airport seized approximately 37kg of khat. Following routine profiling, a 23 year old Norwegian woman who arrived into Dublin on a flight from Abu Dhabi was stopped and questioned. The drugs, which were found in the passenger's checked-in baggage, have a street value in excess of €18,500.

The woman was arrested, appeared in Dublin Circuit Court on July 9 and was remanded in custody to appear again on July 15.

Ireland – Revenue seizes cigarettes worth €14,500 in Dublin Airport



On 12/07/16, Revenue officers at Dublin Airport seized more than 27,000 cigarettes when two Moldovan nationals, who had arrived on a flight from Istanbul, were stopped and searched following routine profiling. The cigarettes were found in the checked in baggage of the male and female, both aged in their 30s.

The two were arrested and brought before Judge Lindsay in the Dublin District Court 13/07/2016. They were remanded in custody to Cloverhill Prison until 18/07/2016, when they will be brought back before the court.

The cigarettes, branded 'Marlboro Gold', have a retail value in excess of €14,500, representing a loss to the Exchequer of approximately €11,600.

Ireland – 100 gardaí freed from passport control duty

Around 100 gardaí are to be freed up for frontline duties by the end of the year as a result of the full civilianisation of passport controls at Dublin Airport. Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald said it would allow gardaí to do "more intensive work" in airports and ports. She said it was needed due to the "new security situation" across Europe.

Gardaí currently deployed at passport controls at Dublin Airport's Terminal 2 will be freed up once a competition being run by the Public Appointments Service is completed. Passports controls in Terminal 1 were civilianised in September of last year.

"We have to use the gardaí for the right thing. We have to take away a lot of the routine civilian work that is being done by them," Ms Fitzgerald said.

Meanwhile, Ms Fitzgerald also said resources were being pumped into operations to clamp down on sham marriages. Particular concerns emerged over marriages of convenience between Pakistani and Bangladeshi men and eastern European and Portuguese women. (*Irish Independent*)

Israel – Yeshiva students suspected of drug smuggling arrested

Three yeshiva (a Jewish institution that focuses on the study of traditional religious texts) students have been arrested for smuggling drugs into Israel. The students, including two 25-year old residents of Bnei Brak and a 22-

year old from Beitar Illit south of Jerusalem, have been accused of flying to Germany, purchasing ecstasy pills, and attempting to sneak them into Israel, concealing them in cigarette packs.

The initial arrests in the case came when two of the three returned to Israel from Germany. Customs agents discovered the drugs after the pair landed in Ben Gurion Airport.

A third suspect was taken into custody June 22. A resident of Bnei Brak and student at the Mir Yeshiva in Jerusalem, the third and final member of the smuggling ring to be arrested is believed by police to have planned the smuggling operation. They noted that he had previously traveled to Germany, and purchased the plane tickets for the two smugglers with his own money.

Attorney Roei Attias, who represents the man accused of planning the smuggling attempt, claimed that his client had simply done his friends a favor after they requested that he arrange their flights, with the intention of paying him back later. (*Arutz Sheva*)

Japan – S. Korea women indicted over gold-in-undies smuggling ploy

Four South Korean women, accused of attempting to smuggle in gold ingots worth 136.5 million yen (\$1.3 million) in their undergarments, indicated the 30-kilogram haul was just the tip of the iceberg, sources said.

"We've smuggled gold into Japan about 30 times since last summer," investigators quoted one of the suspects as saying. The women--in their 20s, 30s and 40s--were indicted on June 29 on charges of violating the Customs Law.

Thirty 1-kilogram ingots were found in pockets sewn inside the backs of a camisole, corset and girdle worn by three of the women on April 11 after they landed at Kansai International Airport in Osaka Prefecture, sources said.

The group's scheme was exposed when a Japan Customs agent became suspicious of one of the women who kept looking down and was reluctant to make eye contact. They were subsequently arrested by Osaka prefectural police.



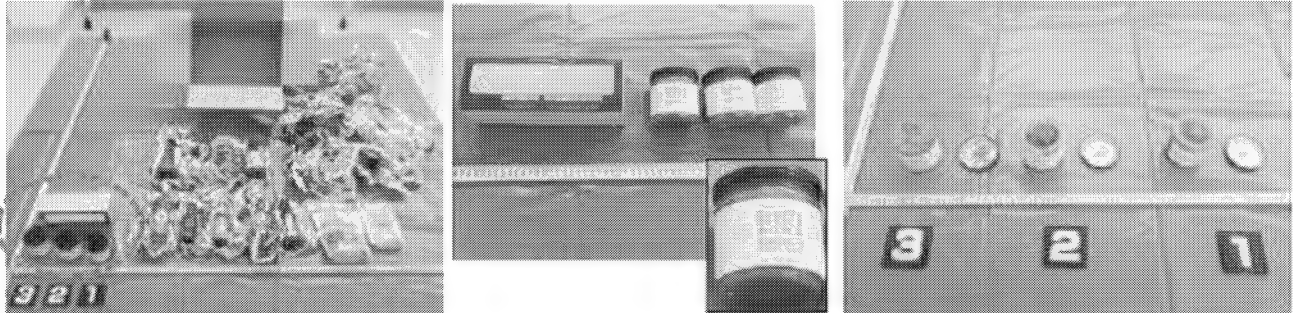
The fourth woman, Lee Pu-reun, 27, said her role was to keep an eye on the others, the sources said. "We transported the gold on orders from a woman in South Korea," Lee was quoted as saying. "We received the goods from a man near our boarding gate at Incheon Airport and hid them in the underwear of the three others in a bathroom with disability access."

For each successful smuggling trip, Lee received about 150,000 yen in cash, while the three smugglers were paid 30,000 yen to 40,000 yen, the sources said.

According to Osaka Customs' Kansai Airport Branch Customs, the Customs Law and Consumption Tax Law require those who enter Japan to declare gold worth more than 200,000 yen at customs and pay the 8-percent consumption tax on the precious metal. (*The Asahi Shimbun*)

Japan – Japan customs cargo ops seized 974.9 grams of cannabis concealed in food containers

Customs officers at Haneda Branch Customs inspected an air cargo arriving from the United States of America since it was sent from an individual to another and a drug detector dog showed the positive reaction on it.



As a result of further inspection, it was revealed that approximately 974.9 grams of cannabis was concealed inside 3 food containers.



Japan – Japan Customs seized 15 bottles of liquid cocaine and 4142 grams of cocaine in chocolates

On 17 July 2016, Customs officers at Narita International Airport inspected a Peruvian male passenger arriving from the Republic of Peru via the United Mexican States.

When the suitcase was opened, there were 15 plastic bottles and 10 paper boxes of chocolate wrapped in plastic. As a result of further inspection, it was revealed that cocaine was concealed inside them

Kuwait – Customs foils bid to smuggle snakes – Kuwaiti owner detained

A Kuwaiti citizen was arrested at Kuwait International Airport for attempting to smuggle 50 snakes into the country.

According to sources, Customs officers at Kuwait International Airport noticed some strange bodies while inspecting the luggage of a Kuwaiti passenger who had arrived at the airport from an Asian country. They checked it to find 50 snakes wrapped in a cloth.

The citizen was arrested and referred with the snakes to the concerned authorities for further investigations.



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Kuwait – Kuwaiti customs inspectors found hashish hidden in a deflated bag

Kuwaiti customs inspectors seized nearly two kg of “quality” hashish sent to the oil-rich Gulf country in a courier shipment.

The inspectors decided to scan the shipment after suspecting it contained illegal items when it arrived at the airport.

They found around two kg of quality hashish in the shipment. It was expertly hidden in a plastic bag that had been deflated of air. (Emirates 24/7)

Kuwait – Gallows for three Indians, woman in drug trafficking

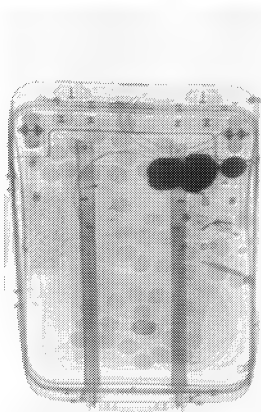
The Court of Appeals presided over by Judge Ali Diran has upheld the verdict of the lower court and sentenced three Indians and a Sri Lankan woman to death by hanging for trafficking in drugs. The sentences were issued by the Criminal Court in March 2016 against people identified only as F.M., M.H. and A.B. – all believed to be from the south Indian state of Kerala, and a Sri Lankan identified only as S.B.

One of the suspects was caught at the Kuwait International Airport in 2015 while attempting to smuggle heroin into the country and during interrogations he gave the names of his accomplices who were subsequently picked up from their hideout in Jleeb Al- Shuyoukh.

During interrogation all the four had admitted to the charge related to smuggling heroin, possessing and selling drugs in the country. (Arab Times)

Macedonia – 22 gold coins seized at Skopje Alexander the Great Airport

During inspection of a passenger at the Skopje Alexander the Great, a Mobile Customs Team found 22 gold coins worth about 12,000 US dollars.



On 13th July at the Skopje Airport, Macedonian citizen N.R. arrived from Rome. Despite the fact that he chose the green channel, the inspectors selected him for customs control. The customs inspectors found 22 gold coins

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weighing 307 grams wrapped in a paper bag. The coins are estimated to be worth US\$11,645 or MKD 647,578. The undeclared coins have been temporarily seized, and the man carrying them will be charged.

Malaysia – One tonne of smuggled ivory tusk worth RM10m seized

The KL International Airport (KLIA) Customs Department seized 1,001kg of smuggled ivory tusk worth more than RM10 million.



KLIA Customs director Datuk Chik Omar Chik Lim said the haul was discovered on July 21 when twenty-three packages containing 60 pieces of ivory, believed to be from 30 elephants, were found in a Turkish Airlines air cargo.

"We managed to intercept the smuggling attempts into our country based on surveillance and intelligence. We believe the ivory were not meant to be sold here, but in China, Thailand and Vietnam where the demand is higher. The plane (Turkish Airlines) was from Kinshasa International Airport, Democratic Republic of Congo, had also made a transit at Istanbul Ataturk Airport in Turkey," Chik Omar said in a press conference.

The ivory was labelled as "Baked Clay and Wooden Sample" and addressed to homes in Selangor and Johor but the houses were empty.

The department is also in the midst of tracing the sender and origin of the ivory and the case is being investigated under Section 135(1)(d) of the *Customs Act 1967*.

Meanwhile, a parcel from Nigeria containing 530 grams of methamphetamine was confiscated at the KLIA Mail and Courier Centre on July 22 at 11am. "The parcel was registered to a recipient in Kuala Lumpur and attempts to locate the recipient and the address failed," he said. (*The Sun Daily*)

Malta – Asylum seeker jailed for using someone else's passport

A 23-year-old failed asylum seeker from Somalia has been jailed for a month after he admitted to using a passport which belonged to someone else in a second attempt at getting refugee status.

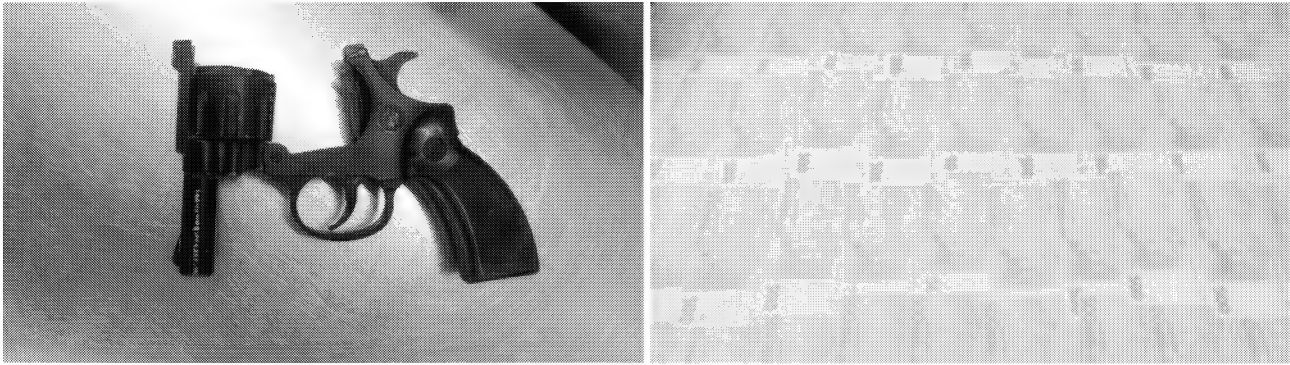
Inspector Mario Haber told Magistrate Joe Mifsud how Shariif Said Abdulqadir had tried and failed to obtain refugee status in Sweden, before coming to Malta. Although he had used his own documents to enter the country, he had then pretended to be someone else at the office of the refugee commissioner when he applied for refugee status and was subsequently arrested. Legal aid lawyer Noel Bartolo entered a guilty plea.

The court handed Abdulqadir a sentence of one month in prison, after which he will be repatriated to Sweden.

Moldova – Gun and money found at airport

Currency and a gun were found by border police officers on two people who wanted to leave the country by air. The cases were documented in Chisinau International Airport.

On July 30 during security check at the Chisinau-London route, border inspectors observed suspicious baggage of one of the passengers - a 22-year-old, holder of dual citizenship, Republic of Moldova and Romania. As a result of verification, the presence of a model 348-C size 6 mm gun was revealed. The gun was seized for experts to establish its technical and operating condition.



On the morning of 31 July, following expanded use of intelligence, border policemen identified within the passenger flow of the Chisinau - Tel Aviv air route a citizen of Israel, aged 73, who tried to remove illegally from the country an impressive amount of money. The person was monitored during the necessary control stages to cross the border, and subsequently, be subjected to additional controls. In the hand luggage of the man were found a total of €24,300 and \$US250, which were not declared to customs authorities.

New Zealand – Customs dogs sniff out millions in concealed cash

Customs dogs have sniffed out almost \$10 million of undeclared and concealed cash at the border in the past three years.



Customs Minister Nicky Wagner said the dogs and their handlers were helping protect New Zealand from money laundering and the movements of large sums of cash which could be linked to illegal activities. "While it's not illegal to carry large sums of cash, passengers need to declare amounts over \$10,000 so Customs can confirm that the money is legitimate," she said.

"Detector dogs ensure that people comply with the rules around large

sums of cash and sends a clear signal to criminals that Customs can and will stop illegal cash movements at the border."

In 2015, Customs dogs found more than \$3.7 million in cash. This year so far they have detected more than \$1.5 million. In most cases, passengers filled in a border cash report and kept their money.

The 2016 Budget allocated more than \$500,000 in funding for five more dogs, bringing the total number of detector dogs to 18. "This will be a big boost to Customs' detection capabilities and help provide greater coverage, more assurance, and an extra layer of enforcement at the border," Ms Wagner said. (*The New Zealand Herald*)

New Zealand – Chinese tourist fined for trying to sneak lucky cow tooth through New Zealand customs

A Chinese woman who landed at Queenstown Airport in New Zealand was fined 400 NZD for not declaring her "lucky tooth," which was sniffed out by a Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) biosecurity dog.

MPI released a statement, recounting that the woman's travel companion informed officers it was a dog's tooth bought in rural China used as a good luck charm when flying. However, the staff quickly recognized it as a cow's tooth. "It looked way too big to be from a dog," said Andrew Spelman, MPI Border Clearance Manager.

Spelman also explained the dangers of such an item: Under the worst case scenario the tooth could have been contaminated with foot-and-mouth disease, as China has had outbreaks of this devastating virus in the past. It could also have been carrying other diseases such as rabies, given its rural origin and the unknown circumstance of the cow's death. Looks like the woman got off easy. Here are the potential repercussions:

Fees, fines and penalties

People failing to declare biosecurity risk goods – even by accident – can be instantly fined a \$400 infringement fee. Anyone caught smuggling a prohibited or risk item could:

- be fined up to \$100,000
- face up to 5 years in prison
- be deported.

Though a cow tooth seems quite ridiculous, it is far from a single case incident. The MPI released a statement titled "Busy Month for Biosecurity Staff," detailing their interceptions. These items include: dried frogs, undeclared fruit fly-infest chillies, a haul of mung beans and a declared tiger's tooth.

New Zealand – Handbags hiding \$30 million 'P' don't gel with Customs

Customs has seized a shipment of 4000 handbags hiding 30 kilograms of methamphetamine or 'P' inside small silica gel sachets, worth an estimated street value of \$30 million.



Customs didn't like the look of this shipment that arrived by air freight from China. On inspection, though the handbags appeared ordinary inside and out, something didn't gel. Each handbag had two to five silica gel packs, with approximately 3.6 grams of 'P' hidden in most packs.

New Zealand – Former body builder jailed for smuggling \$1.4m of methamphetamine in neck pillows

A former Mr New Zealand body-builder has been jailed for importing methamphetamine, with a potential value of \$1.4 million, into the country from Hong Kong in neck pillows.

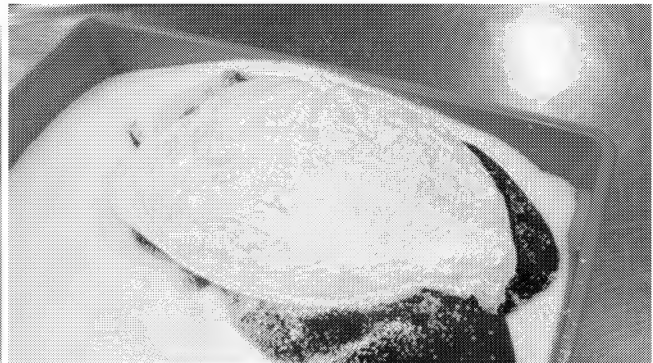
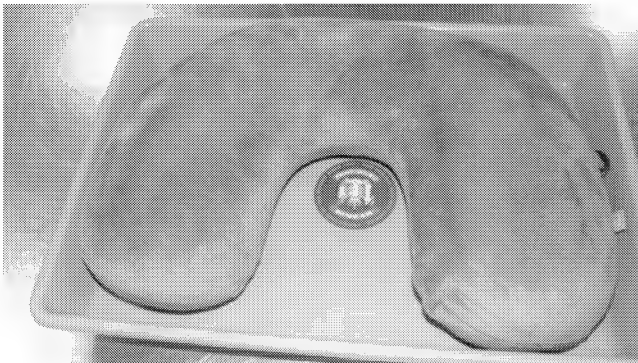


Yoram Kalev, 48, had won body-building titles five times in past. He had been working as personal trainer at a Les Mills gym when he went to Hong Kong to help set up a body-building business. He was asked to bring the neck pillows back and did so believing he was smuggling in ephedrine.

On July 15, Wellington Court judge Denys Barry jailed him for six years and 10 months for being a mule in the drug operation. Kalev had pleaded guilty to importing methamphetamine and possession of the drug for supply. The judge said Kalev did not know he was carrying methamphetamine.

He was stopped at Wellington Airport by Customs in January. Officers discovered the drugs after finding the neck pillow he was carrying was unusually heavy. A second pillow was found in Kalev's luggage. X-rays showed inconsistencies in the pillows.

Plastic bags inside the pillows were found to be filled with methamphetamine. One pillow had 638 grams and the second had 758 grams.



The judge said while Kalev had no previous convictions, he had been warned several times by customs for importing ephedrine between 2010 and 2015, which was linked to his obsession with body-building.

New Zealand – Airport cleaner stole forfeited cigarettes

An amnesty bin where people left excess cigarettes they could not bring into New Zealand was repeatedly raided by a French citizen employed as a cleaner at Queenstown International Airport. Thirty-two-year-old Costa Le Coubet told police he thought the cigarettes "were going to be thrown out so it wasn't such a big issue".

That issue was big enough for guilty pleas to four theft charges by Le Coubet at an appearance in the Christchurch District Court July 27.

He was stopped by Customs at Christchurch Airport as he was about to fly home to France and has forfeited his \$1000 air ticket, according to defence counsel Claire Hislop. Miss Hislop said Le Coubet would try to obtain work

in Christchurch during his remand on bail. He was in New Zealand on a working holiday visa which would expire in November.

Le Coubet says the police already have his passport, and the court imposed an additional bail condition that he not attempt to leave New Zealand.

Police said he was employed as a cleaner at Queenstown Airport. He was responsible for cleaning the Customs controlled area and had a door pass into the secure areas.

On June 3, Le Coubet and an associate entered the secure area where the cigarette amnesty bin is located. It contains cigarettes that have been forfeited to the Crown by passengers who have exceeded their limit of 50 cigarettes being brought into New Zealand and don't want to pay tax on the excess cigarettes. The bin is tamper proof and secured with a combination lock and a slanting security flap.

Le Coubet and the associate reached into the bin and got some cigarettes out. He returned to the bin 45min later and got more cigarettes, and did it again on June 5 and June 8.

On June 9, Customs officers noticed the bin had been tampered with and looked through security camera footage which showed Le Coubet taking the cigarettes. (*Christchurch Court News*)

Nigeria – South African woman with cocaine in brassiere arrested at Lagos Airport

An attempt by a South African woman to smuggle 1.21kg cocaine from Nigeria to her home country was foiled on June 4 by anti-narcotics officials.



The 34 year-old apprentice chef was arrested at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, in the process of boarding a Johannesburg-bound plane. She concealed the substance packed in two parcels in her brassiere. The drug was detected by a female operative of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) during passengers' screening.

NDLEA commander at the airport, Ahmadu Garba, gave the suspect's

name as Lekganyane Lerato. Garba said "The suspect was intercepted during routine screening of passengers on South African airline. The drug was neatly concealed but certainly not good enough to escape our notice. She is currently under investigation and will be charged to court very soon."

The suspect said that she was lured into drug trafficking by friends. She said she "never imagined that the drug would be detected because it was carefully concealed inside my brassiere. A female officer requested to feel my boobs, that was how the cocaine was detected. My travel expenses were handled by the sponsor who promised to pay me \$3,000 when I get to Johannesburg but all my dreams have been dashed following my arrest," Lerato lamented.

Nigeria – Six arrested with cocaine concealed in vegetables, shoes at Enugu airport

About six suspected drug dealers were on June 9 nabbed by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA at the Akanu Ibiam International Airport.

The suspects reportedly compressed cannabis in vegetables and cocaine inside shoe soles. While two of the suspects were found in possession of substances that tested positive for cocaine, the four others were caught with dried cannabis sativa.



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Commenting on the arrest, the NDLEA Commander at the Enugu Airport, Adeofe Adeyemi, said, "The command has arrested six suspected drug traffickers with 62.663kg of narcotic drugs. One of the suspects, Ibeh Kevin Nonso, 46 years old, going to China, swallowed 67 wraps of cocaine weighing 1.131kg. Izukanne Ikenna, 33 years old, going to Hong Kong, hid 982 grammes of cocaine inside the sole of his shoes.

"The only female, 27 year old Kenechukwu Ujunwa Uchenna, was arrested on her way to Dubai with 11.7kg of cannabis in dried bitter leaf vegetables. The identities of the three other suspects will be disclosed on conclusion of our investigation," Adeyemi added.

Confirming the arrest and seizure, the spokesman of the agency, Ofoyeju Mitchell, said that three of the suspects were going to China where drug trafficking was punishable by death. He said a total of

62.663kg of drugs comprising 60.55kg of cannabis and 2.113kg of cocaine were seized from the six accused.

Nigeria – Two Chinese nationals arrested over attempt to smuggle out elephant tusks

The Murtala Muhammed International Airport Command of Nigerian Customs Service on June 10 arrested two Chinese nationals over an attempt to smuggle out 678 pieces of elephant tusks and eight sacks of pangolin weighing over 381 kilogrammes.



The Chinese nationals, according to the Customs Area Comptroller of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport Command, Frank Nduka Allannah, have been remanded in the custody of the Nigerian Customs at the Lagos Airport pending further investigation. The scales of pangolin were meant for export where it would have been used for Chinese medicine.

Allannah said eagle-eyed Customs officials at the Export Shed of the MMIA, intercepted the prohibited items while they were being taken out of the country by the Chinese who claimed ownership of the items. He said upon physical examination of prohibited item, the Chinese were subsequently arrested and are still being held in custody.

He said the elephant tusks were in two compartments of 387 unprocessed pieces, while 271 had been processed into combs and hand bangles. He said: "We do not intend to give the names of the Chinese nationals yet."

Nigeria – Magistrate assaulted as Customs officers clash with Lagos Task Force personnel

There was a mild drama when officers of the Nigerian Customs Services allegedly attacked a magistrate of the Lagos State Mobile Court, Magistrate Lekan Aka-Bashorun, and carted away court exhibits.

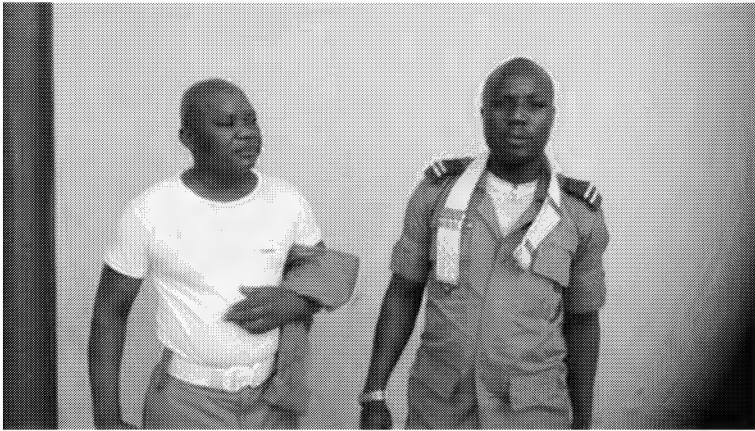
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Customs officers Goyit Bulus and Olugbogi Sunday, of the Federal Operations Unit, were arrested over the clash but later released. Head, Public Affairs Unit, Lagos State Task Force on Environmental and Special Offences, Mr. Adebayo Taofiq, disclosed this on June 12.

According to Taofiq, "A fully-armed Nigerian Customs officer, Mr. Yusuf S, attached to the Federal Operations Unit, Zone 'A' Ikeja, slapped Magistrate Aka-Bashorun for ordering his court officials to impound Nigerian Customs officers' private vehicles for traffic offences.

"His colleagues beat up two para-military officials and rough handled two Superintendents of Police attached to Lagos State Task Force in front of the gate of their premises at Ikeja. Other officers trooped out, claiming that as officers of a Federal Government agency they were exempted from any of Lagos State Government's laws, particularly traffic laws.

"The operatives of the court commenced its operations from Allen Avenue at Ikeja, impounding both commercial and private vehicles for various traffic offences down to Nigerian Customs Operations Unit, Ikeja area, where private vehicles were parked along the walkways beside an illegal car wash despite the 'No Parking' signs installed by the Management of Nigerian Customs on the walls of the premises.

"It was after the vehicles beside Nigerian Customs premises were impounded that its officials barricaded the highway with heavy stones and used tyres, and descended on court officials, carting away two mobile phones with a Sony camera used for recording evidence before court proceedings.

"The fracas, which saw two Customs officers arrested, would have turned out to be bloody because many of them came out with weapons, including guns. Tension was later doused by the Chairman of the Task Force, Superintendent of Police Olayinka Egbeyemi, who came to the scene and moved away officials of the court and policemen."

However, three of those operating the illegal car wash said they were paying security charges/levies to some NCS officials for protecting them from any of the state law enforcement agents.

The assaulted magistrate, however, called on security chiefs across the country to call their respective officers to order and that they must subject themselves to civil rule or face consequences for disobeying any law.

Aka-Bashorun said: "The era of military rule is gone. I, therefore, implore the management of the Nigerian Customs Service, Federal Operations Unit, Ikeja, to immediately compel their officers to return all court exhibits, including the two phones and a Sony camera in their possessions, without any further delay." (*Hope for Nigeria*)

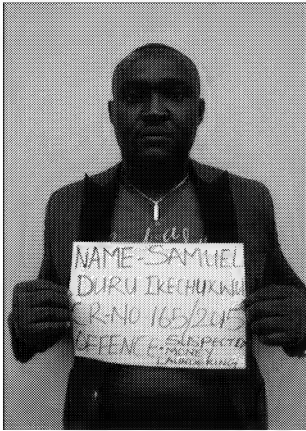
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Nigeria – Court convicts man of \$96,000 money laundering case, orders forfeiture of funds

The EFCC, on June 16, 2016, obtained a conviction in a case of Money Laundering brought against one Samuel Duru before Justice M.N Yinusa of the Federal High Court, Enugu.

Duru, who was arrested by Nigeria Customs Services at the Akanu Ibiam International Airport Enugu, was subsequently handed to EFCC for prosecution. His offence was in contravention of Section 12 of the *Foreign Exchange (Monitoring and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2011*.

He was charged for failure to declare the sum of 86,000 United States dollars out of a total sum of 96,000 United States dollars while travelling to China in December 2015.

North Korea – ‘Do you think Korean people are ugly?’ BBC reporter reveals North Korean interrogation questions

In May, a journalist was detained, interrogated and expelled from North Korea after he was accused of calling Korean people ugly and saying they bark like dogs.

Rupert Wingfield-Hayes, a reporter with the BBC, was about to board his flight to Beijing after spending a week in North Korea when he was detained at the airport. Hayes was visiting Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, to cover the visit by a delegation of three Nobel laureates.



His colleagues from the BBC, Maria Byrne and Matthew Goddard, were also accompanying him on the trip. Hayes described his feelings of confinement while staying in North Korea: “I couldn’t move anywhere in Pyongyang without a team of five minders following my every step. At night the BBC team was confined to an overheated villa in a guarded compound.”

His trip to North Korea was exhaustive and stressful and the team was ready to fly out to Beijing. At the airport, Hayes noticed that the female immigration officer at Pyongyang was taking a longer time than usual with his

passport. Everyone else had cleared security and headed towards the gate.

Hayes was called over by the North Korean border guard who had his digital recorder. The guards informed Hayes that he wouldn’t be boarding the flight to Beijing. Instead, he was to be escorted to a waiting car and ushered into the back seat. Hayes thought: “My God. This is real. My flight is leaving and I am being left behind in North Korea!”

The car arrived at an old grey hotel where Hayes was taken into a conference room with large portraits of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il hanging on the wall. A group of officials entered and sat opposite to him. They said: “Mr. Rupert this meeting can be over quickly and simply, it will depend on your attitude.”

Hayes was informed that several of his articles published on the BBC website covering the visit of the Nobel laureates had insulted the Korean people. He recalled the conversation:

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recovered powder was instantly tested with the Narcotics Testing Kit which gave the positive inference of heroin, the chief collector added.

The aircraft was deployed as PK-744 on 21 May for Islamabad-Jeddah, then PK-760 on 22-5-2016 for Jeddah-Lahore and finally PK-305 from Lahore to Karachi on the same day. After landing at Karachi airport, the aircraft was parked in the above mentioned hanger for maintenance.

Similarly, on 1 June customs authorities were told that more heroin was concealed in the cavities of the same aircraft. Accordingly a team of customs staff posted at JIAP led by Additional Collector Syed Asad Raza Rizvi and Deputy Collector Customs Ali Raza Turabi immediately reached the PIA aircraft which was still parked at Bay-2. The search resulted into the recovery of two polythene packets containing light brown 1 kilogramme heroin powder recovered from two lavatories (one packet from each lavatory) concealed in the ceiling panels of the aircraft.

Separately, on 3 June, credible information revealed that heroin was concealed in the cavities of a PIA aircraft bearing registration number AP-BGJ-777 parked at Bay-25 JIAP, arrived from Jeddah as PK-762. Accordingly a team of customs staff posted at JIAP led by Syed Asad Raza Rizvi and Ali Raza Turabi immediately reached the above mentioned PIA aircraft. The search in the presence of PIA staff resulted in the recovery of one black polythene packet containing a light brown heroin powder. 700 grams were recovered from the heating compound adjacent to the commode of aircraft lavatory No 3F-LC.

Moreover, a high level investigation team led by the Additional Collector of Customs, has visited Islamabad and is currently conducting a comprehensive investigation at Karachi and Lahore to dig out the real culprit. The total quantity of the seized drugs is about 29 kilograms. (*Daily Times*)

Pakistan – Drug smuggling bid foiled

Customs officers seized a large cache of drugs from a Jeddah bound passenger at Benazir International Airport.

According to details, customs officers were checking the luggage of the passengers for a Jeddah bound flight on a private airline. During the checking the officers recovered 1.2 kg of heroin from the luggage of a passenger.

According to ANP officers the passenger was later identified as Salim, a resident of Swabi. The security officials arrested the accused and registered a case against him. (*Pakistan Observer*)

Pakistan – Customs foils bid to smuggle UAE dirhams, Omani riyals

Customs Preventive on June 8 foiled a bid to smuggle foreign currency worth Rs 81 million at Allama Iqbal International Airport.

Sources said that the customs authorities intercepted an Omani citizen Nasir Saeed Al Khroosi and found 50,000 UAE dirham and 25,000 Omani riyals during the thorough search of the accused person's luggage. The accused, who was arrested by the customs authorities, was traveling from Lahore to Muscat on flight no.344. The Customs authorities have started investigations on the suspect. (*Customs Today*)

Pakistan – Customs officers recover 2 kg of heroin, bullets at Islamabad airport

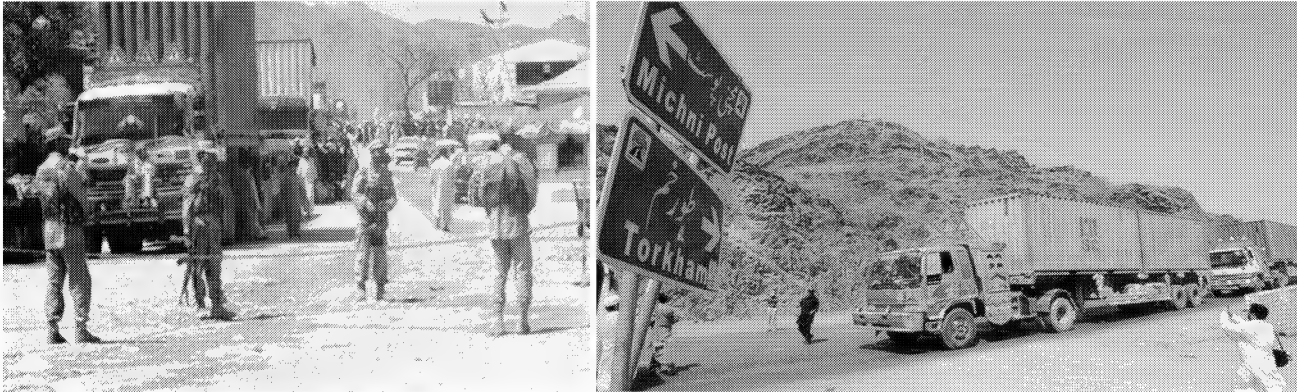
Customs officials on June 9 foiled an attempt of smuggling heroin and bullets and apprehended two suspects in two different incidents at Benazir Bhutto International Airport in Islamabad.

According to details, the customs officials recovered about 2 kilos of heroin from a Khushab resident who was scheduled to travel to Saudi Arabia via QR-633 flight. The security personnel arrested the suspects and launched an investigation into the matter.

Separately, an American national Waleed Hussain was taken into custody for taking 29 bullets to Qatar via flight number QR-633. The suspects have been handed over to police after initial interrogation.

Pakistan – More gunfire at Pakistan-Afghan border, Afghan guard killed

Renewed clashes overnight at a Pakistani-Afghan border crossing killed an Afghan border guard and wounded five, an Afghan official said on June 15 as Islamabad dispatched more troops to the volatile boundary amid an escalation between the two neighbours. Pakistan and Afghanistan have traded blame for the latest violence while calling for a peaceful resolution. However, intermittent shooting continued throughout the day, according to two Pakistani officials.



The Afghan guard is the third fatality since June 12, when clashes erupted at the Torkham border crossing over the construction of a gate by Pakistan on disputed territory. Over two dozen border guards from both sides have been wounded so far. Afghan border police official Jamal Khan said the guard was killed June 14. Another Afghan guard was killed the first night of the violence and a Pakistani officer wounded in the border clashes died June 14.

Attaullah Khogyani, a spokesman for the governor in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, which lies along the border, called on Pakistan to stop shooting toward the Afghan side, adding that fighting "is not the solution."

Pakistan – FIA offloads five passengers at Islamabad airport

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration Department on June 14 offloaded five passengers at Islamabad airport for having fake travelling documents.



The FIA personnel while checking the documents of five passengers, who were to travel to Bangkok and Russia on private airlines, apprehended them after their traveling documents were found fake.

According to immigration department sources, the four passengers identified as Muhammad Zubair, Umar Hayat, Afnan, Zeeshan intended to fly to Bangkok via Islamabad on Chinese flight TG350 while Umar Waqas intended to fly to Doha via Islamabad on QR-633 flight.

The detainees were shifted to FIA anti-human trafficking cell for further investigations. (*Pakistan Today*)

Pakistan – FIA arrests woman at Lahore airport on terror charges



FIA Immigration wing arrested a woman, Musarrat Bano, at Lahore airport after she travelled from Iran to Pakistan.

Director FIA Punjab Dr Usman Anwar confirmed the arrest of Musarrat Bano at the airport and claimed she was an absconder and wanted by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on the charge of giving lectures and instigating sectarian terrorism.

Musarrat Bano, a native of Sialkot, was settled with her husband in Sargodha after her marriage. She was living in Iran since 1998 with her family and came back from Mashhad to Lahore where she was arrested by the FIA, officials said. FIA officials after initial investigations handed her over to CTD Sargodha. (ARY News)



Pakistan – US national without valid visa deported from Pakistan

An American travelling without a valid Pakistani visa was deported on her arrival at Rawalpindi's Benazir Bhutto International Airport.

An official of the Federal Investigation Agency said that during verification of Etihad Airways flight EY-231 passengers, immigration staff found the documents of Krystle Nicole Keehn were invalid. The FIA said the woman was deported to her port of origin on the same flight.

In a similar development, 10 Pakistanis deported by Turkey were arrested on their arrival at the airport and sent to the Anti-Human Trafficking Cell. (*Business Standard*)

Pakistan – Customs foils bid to smuggle drugs to Saudi Arabia, two arrested

Chief Collector of Customs Muhammad Zahid Khokhar, Collector of Customs Preventative SM Tariq Huda, Additional Collector Customs JIAP Syed Asad Raza Rizvi, and Deputy Collector Customs Ali Raza Turabi held a press conference to brief the media about the seizure of 2.74 kilograms of amphetamine crystal and Pakistani currency amounting to Rs 157,000/ from passengers leaving for Umrah.



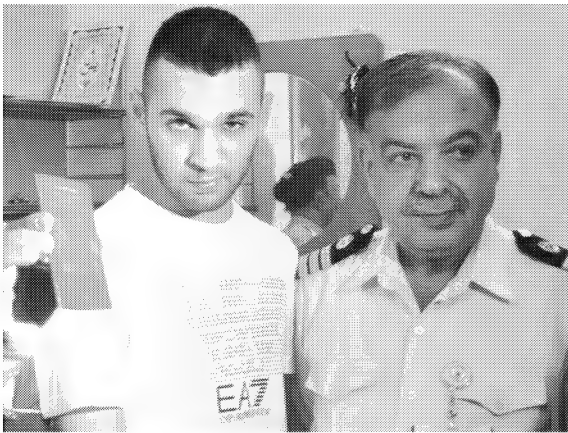
On the intervening night of 23rd and 24th June, customs staff posted at the Karachi airport maintained strict vigilance after receiving reports that an attempt will be made to smuggle contraband items through passengers leaving for Umrah.

At 0718 on June 24, a group of eight passengers crossed the Air Port Security Force scanning machine and were crossing through the customs area when a customs supervisory officer intercepted two passengers, namely Muhammad Usman Ghani,

holding passport UA4131811 with a hard top Delsey brand suitcase, and Shaharyar Saleem, holding passport Ni JS5759481 with a hard top Vouger brand suitcase, who were traveling to Jeddah by PK 761.

The Customs officers asked them to declare whether they were carrying any narcotics or other contraband items in baggage or on their person to which they denied. However, being dissatisfied by their declaration, their suitcases were examined. The other six passengers of the said group stood a yard ahead in front of the ANF counter waiting for the clearance of their companion. (*Customs Today*)

Pakistan – Big cache of heroin seized, one arrested at Benazir Bhutto International Airport



Customs authorities at the Benazir Bhutto International Airport in Rawalpindi on July 17 recovered 20kilogrammes of heroin from a UK-bound passenger.

The customs officials, in a press release, said that they stopped Muhammad Wasim, a British passport holder, as he was about to board a flight bound for London.

The drug was packed in small plastic bags that were concealed in stitches between clothes and embroidery. They said that the heroin could be located only after close search.

The customs officials further noted that the passenger was cleared by Airport Security Force at their counter. (*The Express Tribune*)

Pakistan – Bid to smuggle 1,645 smart phones foiled at airport

Pakistan Customs seized a huge cache of smart phones that were being smuggled in the country from four passengers at Benazir Bhutto Islamabad International Airport July 23. All the four passengers were arrested for carrying 1,645 smart phones worth Rs 20 million as they arrived from Dubai, an official told the media persons.

According to information shared by Customs officials, they received specific information about smuggling of big quantity of cell phones and other accessories to Pakistan from Dubai.

Muhammad Ejaz, Inspector Vigilance Wing, intercepted four passengers coming from Dubai via flight number PK-234. The four passengers were identified as Muhammad Faisal Memon, Nazeer Abdullah, Waqas Omer, and Nazeer Abdullah. During the course of search, the customs officials recovered 1,645 smart phones and 10,700 memory cards.

A customs official desiring anonymity said that the smuggling attempt was not possible without help from staff of the airline. He said that the weight of one hand carry bag could not exceed 8-kg. Each of four bags carried by the smugglers weighed over 40-kg that clearly showed involvement of staff of the airline. (*The Nation*)

Pakistan – Rs10 million worth of ice heroin seized at Islamabad airport

Customs authorities have foiled a heroin smuggling bid worth Rs 10 million to Saudi Arabia.

Azizur Rehman who was to board flight SV-723 of a private airline that was bound for Riyadh from Benazir International Airport was stopped for checking over suspicion.



Ice heroin weighing at least 1 kilogram and a hundred and fifteen grams was seized from his bag and the culprit was arrested. Sources at the airport stated that he had hidden the drug in a box containing packaged beverages.

Philippines – Chinese woman with P6.2M worth of shabu detained at Cebu airport

A Chinese national who arrived at the Mactan Cebu International Airport (MCIA) on Wednesday, July 20, was detained by airport police for smuggling 11 packs of methamphetamine hydrochloride, locally known as *shabu*. Lim-ing Zhou, 27, told airport police that she didn't know that there were drugs in her bag.



"Customs noticed she was fidgety on her way out," Superintendent Ritchie Medardo Posadas and director of the Aviation Security Group at the MCIA said. Posadas said the suspect was carrying 4052.1 grams of shabu with a street value of P6.2 million. It was discovered when a K9 dog of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency agents sniffed her bag. Zhou was aboard Cathay Pacific flight CX 921 from Hong Kong and arrived around 12 noon.

According to the Bureau of Immigration in Cebu, Zhou would come to the Philippines through Cebu every two months.



Posadas said an unidentified contact of Zhou was waiting to pick her up at the airport, but took off when she was detained. "We will look into who her contacts are here," Posadas said.

Zhou told police investigators that a **Canadian** man, who is a friend of her cousin, is the one who would tell her when she should go to the Philippines.

Philippines – Dead Korean man at NAIA faced fraud

The South Korean man who took his own life at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal 3 on July 21 was facing a string of fraud charges for alleged involvement in a \$700,000 investment scam in South Korea.

The Bureau of Immigration held Sang Kwan An, 50, on July 21 at Manila airport from Taiwan, planning to send him back to Seoul. Sang was given clearance to depart on July 19 for Taipei by Immigration at NAIA 3.



When he returned to Manila after two days aboard Cebu Pacific Air flight 5J311, immigration personnel barred him from entry as his name appeared at the BI's database of wanted persons in South Korea. It was later learned that the South Korean embassy had requested Philippine authorities to hold Kwan once he returned to Manila.

Philippine immigration authorities brought Sang to the exclusion room at the airport under airline security pending clearance of his travel documents. Witnesses said they noticed that

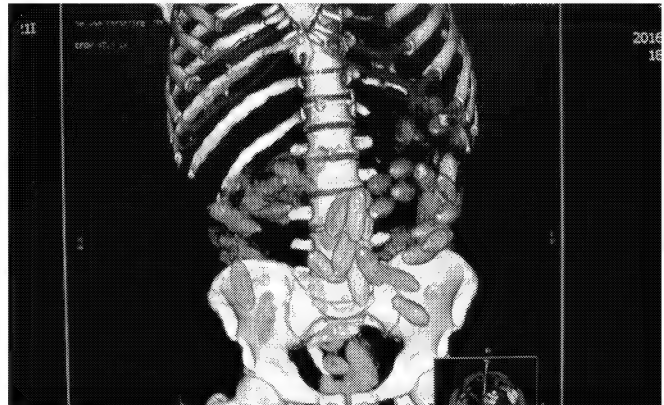
Sang was fidgety and later asked to be allowed to go the washroom. Authorities could not say how long Sang stayed there.

Manila International Airport Authority general manager Ed Monreal said Sang was found lifeless by a cleaner identified as Michelle Ann Ocampo. Ocampo saw Sang's body seated on the floor with a leather belt tied around his neck, while the other end was attached to the door hook of the cubicle.

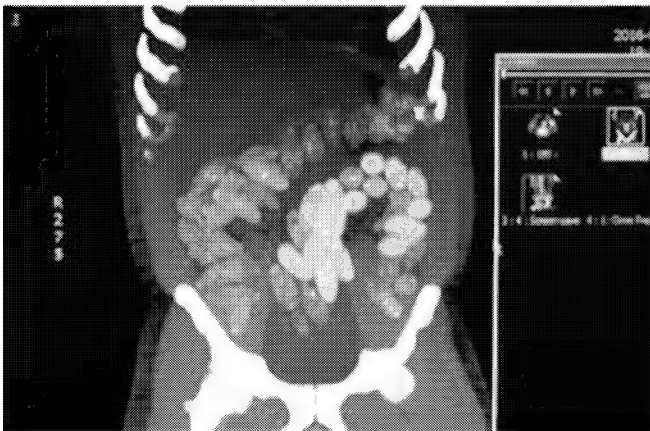
The Pasay City Police is determining if foul play was involved in Sang's death. (*The Manila Times*)

Poland – Man with 1.5kg of drugs in stomach arrested at Warsaw airport

A Nigerian man has been arrested attempting to smuggle 1.5 kilogrammes (3.3 lbs) of cocaine and heroin in his stomach through Warsaw's Chopin airport. The man had swallowed 90 capsules of drugs with a street value of around PLN 600,000 (EUR 13,700), authorities said.



Customs officials had suspected that the 36-year-old man was trying to smuggle drugs into the country and subjected him to testing, which resulted in the plastic-wrapped drugs being found in his stomach.



"Later it turned out that there were ninety [capsules]. Experts from the Forensic Laboratory of the Regional Police in Radom determined that we were dealing with 1.5 kg of heroin and cocaine," a police spokeswoman said.

Puerto Rico – San Juan CBP officers foil cocaine smuggling attempt

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers discovered on June 26, 7.9 kilograms (17.4 pounds) of cocaine concealed on a passengers' carry-on luggage arriving from St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands.



During an inbound passenger inspection, a CBP canine alerted to the odor of narcotics on a passenger's carry-on luggage. The passenger was escorted to a CBP baggage inspection area, where seven bricks of narcotics were discovered. Field test of the substance revealed it to be cocaine, with a weight of 17.4 pounds.

CBP officers contacted Homeland Security Special Agents, who arrested the passenger, a US citizen with residency in Texas.

Qatar – 5kg gold bars seized at airport

The General Authority of Customs (GAC) arrested an Asian national attempting to smuggle gold bars weighing 5kg at the Hamad International Airport.



According to a customs officer the passenger said he had a small quantity of gold and wished to pay the customs duty. However, the man's behaviour raised suspicion and the officer referred the bags to inspectors. A full search revealed the gold bars concealed in secret pockets.

GAC president Ahmed bin Ali al-Mohannadi honoured the officer who made the seizure, lauded his alertness and thanked him for his efforts. He said customs officers were getting continuous training to enhance their professional performance.

The passenger was referred to the security department and the gold was confiscated. (*Gulf Times*)

Qatar – Qatar Airport customs arrest 2 smugglers, one female sorcerer



Customs officers thwarted an attempt to smuggle 2150 Tramadol pills at the Hamad International Airport.

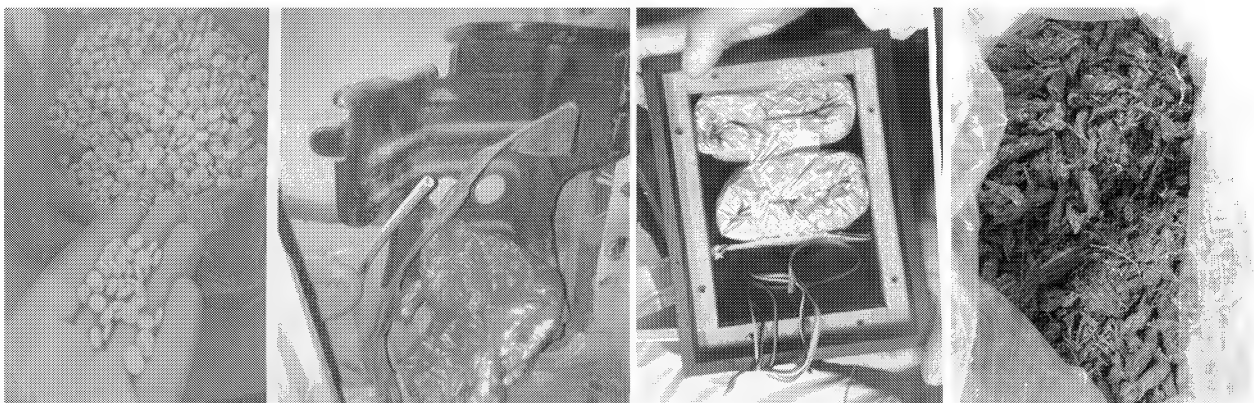
An on-duty officer became suspicious of an Arab passenger on his arrival at the airport and spotted the prohibited pills on screening his luggage.

The officers also arrested an Asian smuggler and seized 700 Lyrica narcotic pills which were concealed in his luggage.

They also caught a female passenger who was attempting to smuggle sorcery items which included a talisman and other pieces.

Qatar – Qatar customs seize cannabis hidden inside sound system

Airport officials in Qatar have recently foiled multiple attempts to smuggle drugs into the country in June, including finding 4kg of cannabis stashed inside music speakers, the Customs Authority said.



The cannabis had been wrapped in brown plastic and was hidden inside the back of four speakers that came through air cargo at Hamad International Airport.

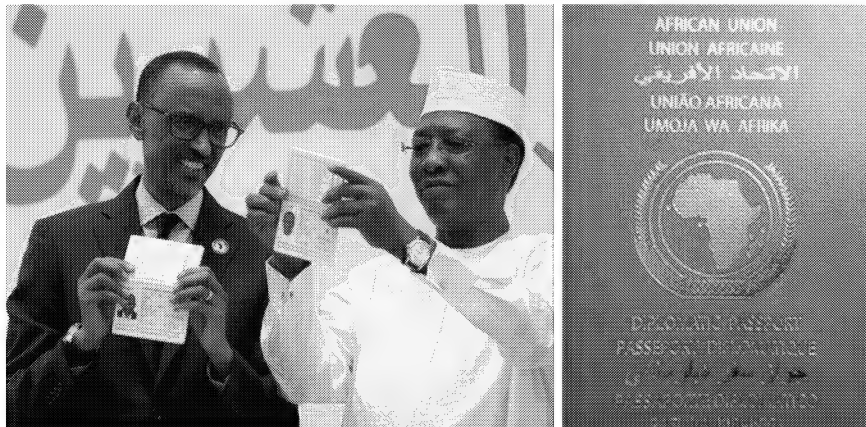


Inspectors also recently stopped an “Asian” passenger at the airport who raised suspicions over the package he was carrying. An investigation of the parcel revealed 6.5kg of marijuana that had been wrapped in paper and black sealant, according to a statement by the General Authority of Customs.

In a third incident, officials stopped a car trying to enter Qatar at the Abu Samra land border with Saudi Arabia and found 583 Captagon tablets that were in a plastic bag hidden inside the back of the car. (*Doha News*)

Rwanda – Pan-African passport to enable Africans move freely on the continent

The African Union Passport launched during the 27th African Union (AU) Summit, in Kigali is expected to ease free movement of people on the continent and spur economic growth.



The Pan-African passport will promote development as well, as Intra-African trade; the passport was launched on July 17th at the opening ceremony of the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU.

“The African passport is intended to disband all the restrictions to move, which will eventually create a conducive environment for Africans to trade with each other,” Louise Mushikiwabo, the Minister of foreign affairs said. (Note: Not valid for Canada. — ed.)

St. Kitts and Nevis – Shotgun found in American luggage at RLB Airport

A man, said to be a US citizen, is currently in police custody after he had attempted to leave St. Kitts aboard a private plane with a shotgun in his luggage.

According to a police communiqué, “One person is in police custody after a firearm was discovered in his luggage while being screened for departure at the Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport on Monday night (June 13).” It also stated that a joint investigation into the incident is being conducted by the Police and Her Majesty’s Customs and Excise Department.

The firearm was discovered in the luggage of the American citizen as he was preparing to board the aircraft at the Basseterre YU Lounge. Unconfirmed report states that the man is a famous designer and he might have had the shotgun with him when he entered the country aboard an aircraft owned by a regular visitor to the Federation.

Saudi Arabia – Four smugglers arrested with 3.899 kilogrammes of cocaine

Saudi customs authorities foiled an attempt to smuggle 3.899 kilogrammes of cocaine through the Prince Mohammed bin Abdul-Aziz International Airport in Medina.

Customs officers became suspicious of a passenger and found 59 capsules weighing 657.5 grammes of cocaine hidden in his abdomen.



The officers caught another passenger who was trying to smuggle 1.23 kilogrammes of cocaine in 91 capsules, which were hidden in his stomach.

A third passenger was also caught with 110 capsules weighing 1.256 kilogrammes of cocaine.

The officers foiled another attempt by a trafficker who was hiding 86 capsules weighing 962.2 grammes of cocaine near his private part.



Saudi Arabia – Yanbu Airport Customs seize thousands of Tramadol pills

Customs teams at Prince Abdulmohsen bin Abdulaziz Airport in Yanbu has apprehended a passenger who attempted to smuggle 7,050 Tramadol pills.

Customs Director of Yanbu Governorate Saad Al-Buqmi said, "During the normal procedures of customs for one of the flights coming to the Kingdom, a customs observer suspected a bag of a passenger, and when he inspected it, he found the pills hidden inside frozen meat in the bag," pointing out that proper procedures have been taken against the passenger.



Saudi Arabia – 110 cocaine capsules in belly

Saudi airport customs inspectors arrested a passenger who tried to smuggle 110 capsules of cocaine into the Gulf Kingdom by hiding them in his belly.

The inspectors at the airport in the Western Medinah town decided to subject the man to scanning after they suspected he was carrying illegal substance inside his body.

Images showed that he had 110 capsules containing around 1.25kg of cocaine.

Convicted drug dealers are executed in most cases in Saudi Arabia, one of the most conservative Muslim nations. (Emirates 24/7)



Saudi Arabia – Man with 90 heroin capsules concealed in his stomach arrested at Saudi airport

Police arrested a passenger at King Abdul-Aziz International Airport for trying to smuggle 909 grammes of pure heroin in his abdomen.

Customs officer screened the man and discovered 90 capsules which were hidden in his stomach, said airport customs director-general Mohammed Al-Aqeel.

The smuggler was referred to the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution.

Saudi Arabia – Customs officials foil bids to smuggle 1.4 kg of cocaine



Customs authorities at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah foiled two attempts to smuggle 1.446 kilogrammes of pure cocaine.

The officers became suspicious of a female passenger and detected 68 capsules weighing 537 grammes of cocaine hidden in her abdomen.

The officers caught another woman at the airport and seized 909 grammes of cocaine hidden in her abdomen.

Sharjah, UAE – 4 women jailed in Sharjah for smuggling in tramadol pills

The Sharjah Shariah Court of First Instance has sentenced four Pakistani women to seven years in jail and Dh50,000 fine, to be followed by deportation for smuggling in 8,400 pills of tramadol.



The women aged from 20-40 years were arrested at the Sharjah International Airport, after the security officials found the pills hidden under belts wrapped around their bodies. The women claimed that they carried the pills without knowing that it was illegal. According to them, somebody in Pakistan asked them to carry the pills, saying that it was a medicine and authorities would not allow to take large quantity of it to the UAE.

They said the man gave them a phone number, asking them to call him once they get out of the airport. The man was supposed to collect the 'medicine' and give them money for carrying it.

A customs inspector at the Sharjah Airport said that the women looked scared and wanted to leave the airport fast. Another official said that the women were carrying only their handbags and were looking around in strange way, which raised their suspicion. (*Khaleej Times*)

South Africa – SARS stops crystal meth and cannabis at ORTIA

SARS Customs officials found 3kg of crystal methamphetamine in unaccompanied luggage at the OR Tambo International Airport (ORTIA) June 8.



A scan of the luggage, from Addis Ababa, revealed suspicious-looking images and on further inspection crystal methamphetamine was found inside the bag, concealed in packages covered in brown tape.

Also at ORTIA June 8 Customs officials, acting on information received, intercepted a trophy stand destined for the United Kingdom. Two detector dogs reacted positively to the item whereupon the stand was

dismantled. Compressed cannabis weighing 19kg was found inside. The drugs were handed over to SAPS for further investigations.

South Africa – R9-million cocaine bust in untagged bag at OR Tambo

SARS Customs officials and the detector dog unit intercepted 30kg of cocaine valued at R9 million at OR Tambo International June 13.

The tagless black bag arrived on a flight from Sao Paulo arousing a lot of suspicious activity around it. It was immediately detained and found to contain pieces of carbon paper, a green duvet and 30 sealed blocks of white substance testing positive for cocaine.

South Africa – Two passengers swallow 91 cocaine bullets in long weekend drug busts worth R6.5 million by SARS Customs

A bizarre concealment of 91 cocaine bullets inside two passengers plus two narcotics busts totalling R6.5 million were made by SARS Customs at OR Tambo International.

Vigilant SARS Customs officials intercepted a passenger with a backpack containing 16kg of ephedrine on 19 June. The passenger, who had disembarked a flight from Kenya, attempted to rush past the Customs officials. After dog detectors reacted to the bag, a further full inspection and scan revealed five clear plastic bags containing a crystal substance which tested positive for crystal methamphetamine.

In a separate incident on 18 June, the SARS dog detector unit intercepted 4kg of cocaine. The bust was made during an aircraft inspection on a flight from Sao Paulo, when a SARS dog unit inspector detected a body suit hidden in the aircraft toilet. The substance concealed in the bodysuit tested positive for cocaine.

Meanwhile in a bizarre concealment case on 15 June, an X-ray of two passengers disembarking a flight from Sao Paulo revealed they had swallowed a total of 91 cocaine bullets between them. The passengers had been stopped, as one of them had been identified as a possible drug mule through SARS' risk engines, while the second passenger displayed suspicious behaviour.

The passengers were taken to a hospital for body X-rays which showed that the first passenger had 58 foreign objects inside the abdomen while the other had 41. Altogether 91 cocaine bullets, weighing approximately 1,4 kg were identified.

The two suspects were arrested by the South African Police Service and placed under medical surveillance for release of the bullets.

South Africa – Heavy drug bust of heroin and cocaine at OR Tambo

South African Revenue Service Customs officials discovered wedding cards en-route to Australia concealing 3.5kg of heroin worth a street value of over R1 million on Monday, 4 July.

The parcel containing the cards was profiled by the dog detector unit during a routine inspection at an international courier company at the OR Tambo International Airport. The weight of the A4 sized cards were extremely inconsistent with that of a normal card and upon examination, were found to have false compartments containing a powdery substance. The substance tested positively for heroin.

In a separate incident, also at OR Tambo International, a female South African passenger, on an inbound flight from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was stopped and found to be carrying 4.2kg of cocaine, valued at R1.2 Million. The bust took place after an examination of the passenger's backpack revealed a false compartment containing a white powder testing positive for cocaine.

Spain – Malaga airport security guard arrested for smuggling marijuana on-to London flights

Three Spanish men have been arrested at Malaga Airport for attempting to send marijuana to London on a



Canada Border
Services Agency

Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada



commercial flight, having successfully done so several times in the past.

Among them is a man employed as a guard at the airport, who apparently facilitated passage of hand luggage loaded with the drug through security controls, while his two accomplices were responsible for packing and travelling with the baggage.

The latter pair were apprehended as they tried to embark on a London Gatwick-bound flight carrying 4.5 kilos of marijuana along with £335 and six mobile telephones.

A roll of €1150 in €50 notes was also recovered from the security guard's vehicle. (*Euro Weekly*)

Sudan – Sudan authorities intercept cocaine at airport



Sudanese Customs authorities have reported confiscating an estimated 12kg cocaine consignment at the Khartoum International Airport.

Customs Director Khalil Sairine disclosed at a press conference that the cocaine valued at millions of dollars, had been intercepted. He explained that the consignment originated from Brazil and was destined for Saudi Arabia, having passed through the Turkish capital of Istanbul en-route to Khartoum. (*Today*)

Sweden – Isis jihadist seeks asylum in Sweden

A notorious jihadist landed in Malmö airport and escaped deportation by promptly applying for asylum.



Police superintendent Leif Fransson was furious at having to keep the 46-year-old Bosnian in the country after his case was handed over to the Migration Agency. "Sweden has got a reputation as a safe gateway for terrorists. As soon as these people play their trump card and shout 'asylum' the pearly gates are opened," he said.

The 46-year-old arrived with his four children on a direct flight from Tuzla in Bosnia on June 13. Border police took him into custody on discovering he was barred from entering Sweden. His wife was already in Malmö visiting a friend and came to pick up the children at the airport.

France had previously ensured the man was placed on a Schengen area watch list in order to block him from entering countries inside the European border zone. Security services in Europe regard the man as a veteran jihadist who is considered highly dangerous.

The Migration Agency promised to process the application quickly, and said it would take into account the views of the Swedish security police, Säpo. Bosnia is not considered dangerous by the agency, a fact that will further damage the man's chances of getting asylum.

Interior Minister Anders Ygeman said the man would remain locked up while his application was being examined.

PROTECTION • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

Canada

Sweden – Failed asylum seekers hunted down and deported as Swedish border police crack down

In an office in Uppsala police station, Therese Soderin apologises for another interruption. This time it is the migration agency calling to tell Soderin, who heads up the Border Police in this university city, that a man whose asylum application has been refused won't leave the country and that police now have to find and deport him.

Soderin hasn't long been back from the airport where she had been overseeing the deportation of a man to Albania. In the next hour there will be two more men sitting in reception: one using someone else's ID number and a Syrian who was supposed to have been sent back to Bulgaria, where he had first claimed asylum.

For Soderin and her team of 15 staff, it is a normal morning in what are unusual times for Sweden. In the past year, she says her workload has doubled. That's because of the number of asylum seekers Sweden has received in the past couple of years, culminating in 160,000 arriving last year.

Figures show that 45% of people who claim asylum in Sweden are rejected. Many leave voluntarily if their appeal fails, but others disappear, which is when the case is handed to the police.

"Last year we received slightly in excess of 11,000 cases from the Migration Agency and in excess of 7,000 of those were already absconded, they were nowhere to be found," said Patrik Engstrom who is head of the Border Police for the whole of Sweden. "And last year we carried out slightly in excess of 3,500 deportations."

As more asylum decisions are given in the coming years, the police expect a bigger workload. The country's Interior Minister Anders Ygeman made international headlines earlier this year when he suggested Sweden could possibly charter aircraft to remove the large numbers of refugees expected to be rejected in the coming years. Soderin says she expects to double her workforce.

She has sympathy with the people she is trying to catch – "they deserve a better life than hiding from the police and authorities in Sweden" - but insists she has a job to do. Engstrom says the prospect of more people going underground is a concern.

"The police have the responsibility to ensure that they are removed that they are repatriated back to where they came from but also because people residing outside of society are people that are vulnerable," he says.

Finding those people who live on the fringes of society could be made easier with a change in the law, Engstrom believes. Although new tougher rules for refugees were approved in June, it's currently not legal for the police to make routine checks on workplaces, even if they reasonably suspect a person is illegally employed.

He gives the example of nail bars or car washes that are so cheap that they couldn't realistically be paying all of the tax and other payments they need to if they are employing staff legally. That is not enough for the police to be allowed to check immigration status.

Instead they need concrete information that a person is being illegally employed. Soderin and her team were involved in the removal of 84 people illegally in Uppsala last year. They rely on tip-offs and writing letters to a person's last known address to let them know the police would like to meet them at the station. Somewhat surprisingly, she says this last method works. They also work together with the tax authorities.

Urban Olsson is an officer who has been doing that for the past few years. He dresses in casual clothes but under his long-sleeve shirt is a bullet proof vest. On his waistband are handcuffs and next to that, a gun.

On this day, he and two other officers are working with two tax inspectors. The tax authorities are allowed to check in on businesses they suspect might not be working within the law. If the police go with them, they are allowed to check the immigration status of employees. It has proved to be an effective relationship in the mission to find people in the country illegally.

One of the stops they make is at a nondescript restaurant above some shops. One officer stays outside, by the back door. Olsson and his other colleague follow behind the two tax inspectors. They're two women in their 50s, casually dressed and unlikely to make anybody worry when they walk in the door.

But as they go to the counter and show their IDs, faces drop. The police ask the men working in the kitchen to come out and everyone is made to hand over identification. Sometimes people run, but not this time. There are no complaints and little fuss. The customers gathered at the table barely seem to notice.

Olsson calls the Migration Board and gives them the names and ID numbers of the workers. One man who had been serving behind the counter is pulled aside. He hadn't been granted asylum and failed with his appeal. He'd been told three weeks before that he had to leave the country and wasn't supposed to be working.

The Migration Board hadn't yet handed his file to police, though, so they couldn't take him into custody. The restaurant will be fined. But, to the frustration of Olsson, the next time they're back the man is likely to be long gone, still on their ever expanding list of those whose whereabouts is unknown. (*International Business Times*)

Taiwan – Woman has undeclared HK dollars confiscated at airport

A Taiwanese woman had a large sum of undeclared cash in Hong Kong dollars confiscated by Customs at the



Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport June 23, and her travel plans were disrupted.

The woman, who had booked a China Airlines flight to Hong Kong for that morning, was found by security personnel to be carrying HK\$300,000 (US\$38,679). The woman, identified only by her surname Lai, claimed that she was taking the large sum of money to Hong Kong to go shopping.

As she failed to declare the money to Customs authorities, she forfeited HK\$222,000 to Customs under the *Foreign Exchange Regulation Act*, and was allowed to keep only HK\$78,000, an equivalent of US\$10,000.

Passengers and transportation service personnel traveling in and out of the country are required by law to declare any foreign currency valued at more than US\$10,000, or over 20,000 Chinese Yuan. Undeclared foreign currency is subject to confiscation. (Focus Taiwan News Channel)

Taiwan – Immigration officers nab suspect in shoplifting case

An Indonesian woman wanted on suspicion of stealing a high-priced bag earlier this year from a duty-free shop at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport was arrested June 28 while in transit at the airport, the National Immigration Agency (NIA) said.



Footage from the shop's security camera showed the woman stealing a handbag that cost about NT\$20,000 (US\$619), while she was waiting for a flight to depart Taiwan in January, according to the NIA's Border Affairs Corps.

Prosecutors placed the woman on the wanted list because she managed to leave the country before airport police could identify her, the authorities said. On June 28, the woman arrived at the airport to take an EVA Air flight to the United States, the authorities said. (*The China Post*)

Taiwan – Couple held at airport for smuggling drugs in cereal

A Taiwanese man and his girlfriend were caught at the Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport in late June as they tried to smuggle six kilograms of amphetamine to Australia, while the mastermind behind the ring has also been arrested, the Investigation Bureau said.

Along with his girlfriend, the 25-year-old man, surnamed Lu, joined a drug-trafficking ring in order to repay gambling debts, the bureau said. They were lured into participating in the illegal activity as the mastermind behind the ring, surnamed Lin, promised to pay them NT\$200,000 (US\$6,175) per trip from Taiwan to Australia, bureau investigators said.

Taking advantage of the peak travel season beginning late June, the ring asked their drug mules to pretend to be couples and join tourist groups traveling to Australia, the bureau said. Lu and his girlfriend, 23, pretended to be tourists and joined a Taiwanese tour group that was departing for Brisbane, Australia. However, they were arrested at the airport.

Acting after months of preparation and with the cooperation of customs officers and airport police, the investigators caught the two traffickers and discovered 10 packages of amphetamine, totaling 6 kilograms, in their luggage, the bureau said. The drugs were hidden in boxes of cereal and nuts, it said. (*The China Post*)

Tanzania – Heroin trafficker sentenced to 25 years in jail

A 35-year-old South African has been sentenced to 25 years in jail for trafficking heroin. The High Court in Mbeya also ordered the South African, Vuyo Jack, to pay a fine of Sh3.1 billion. He was found guilty of trafficking 42.5 kilogrammes of heroin worth Sh1.8 billion.

He was arrested in 2010 together with his wife Anastazia Elizabeth. The two were reportedly trying to smuggle the drugs into Tanzania from South Africa through the Tanzania-Zambia border.

Two years ago, the confiscated drugs were burnt after the High Court ordered so at the completion of investigations. (*The Citizen*)

Thailand – Taiwanese on fake passport faces deportation on drugs and weapons charges

Eagle eyed Suvarnabhumi immigration officers arrested a Taiwanese man with a fake passport – then found out he was wanted for drugs and weapons offences in his home country.



Yu Cheng Yu, 36, faces deportation from Thailand after his arrest on June 24. He had entered Thailand through the land border at Padang Besar and was using a Guatemalan passport claiming he was in the rubber business.

Yu was seen acting suspiciously near the China Airlines check-in. Immigration found him in possession of both a Guatemalan and a Taiwanese passport. He had entered on the Guatemalan one on June 22nd and officials went to check it using detection machines. It was found to have inkjet

printing and be fake. The Taiwanese passport was genuine, however.

Yu said that he was involved in the rubber business between Malaysia, Thailand and Guatemala and was on his way to the Netherlands before going to Central America. Immigration did not buy his story and contacted the Taiwanese embassy who told them he was wanted on drugs and weapons charges dating back to 2013.

He was charged with using a fake passport and detained pending contact with Taiwanese authorities and deportation.

Tonga – Guilty verdict for tobacco teabag smugglers

Two men of Chinese origin who hid tobacco in tea bags were found guilty of smuggling and failing to declare to Tonga Customs tobacco in excess of the legal limit when the men arrived at Fua'amotu International Airport, in April last year. The men were returning to Tonga from China and had travelled via Fiji.

Hon Mr Justice Cato on 2 June found Mr Qixiang Huang and Mr Jinbao Liu guilty on both counts, and will sentence them on 8 July.

A third accused, Mrs Yunbing Huang the wife of Liu, was similarly charged but was acquitted after the judge was satisfied that her husband had put the tobacco in her bag without her knowing and he had also filled out her passenger declaration form at the airport.

Mr Qixiang brought in 12.6kg of tobacco, Yunbing 7.5kg and Jinbao had 7.6kg with the intention to defraud Revenue. The personal concession allowed for a person aged 18 and over to bring to Tonga is 250 grams, which is one sleeve of 10 packets of 20 cigarettes duty-free. The court heard that the two convicted accused had knowingly imported into Tonga tobacco that was over the legal limit in their luggage.

Each had hand luggage when arriving on 14 April and had sleeves of tobacco within the allowance. It was clear that there were more luggage they had brought from China. On April 16-17 2015, when their luggage arrived authorities found the excess tobacco in tea bags, the court was told.

The judge said on April 14, 2015, at Fua'amotu Airport all accused failed to declare to Customs in their declaration form that he or she was importing tobacco that was in excess of the personal concession. "I do not believe they would not have taken steps to ascertain what they were required to declare before signing their declarations despite their protest that they were ignorant of its content because of their lack of understanding English."

He said their answers given independently were that the only matters they anticipated Customs were concerned with were explosive materials, food or drugs but not tobacco, which is in my view convenient, he said.

Mr Justice Cato said he did not believe either Qixiang or Liu when they said it was mere coincidence they both imported tobacco into Tonga in tea bags for the same reasons to vacuum pack it so it was compressed and preserved. He had also heard no evidence that this was common practice among persons from China importing to Tonga or any other country.

"Their explanations were virtually identical and were in my view again not a mere coincidence but contrived. Both men were well aware of the concession."

Turkey – A son rushing to meet his mother, the couple preparing for their wedding and the hero who tried to stop the bomber

Customs officer Umut Sakaroğlu heroically shot one of the bombers

Tragic stories of the lives cut short by three suicide bombers at Istanbul airport are beginning to emerge. The attackers, believed to be ISIS extremists, claimed 41 lives, most of them Turkish citizens, when they detonated their devices at the city's Ataturk Airport. Among those who died were five Saudis, two Iraqis, one Tunisian, an Uzbek, an Iranian, a Ukrainian, a Jordanian and a Chinese national.

A number of people killed on June 28 had only come to the airport to meet their loved ones or do a job, including Göksel Kurnaz, 38, who was picking up his boss from the airport.

Serkan Turk, a 24-year-old physical education graduate who had gone to the airport to meet his mother. He was killed by the second blast, after he went to try and help those injured by the first.

Joseph Haznedaroğlu was due to marry in 10 days.

Customs officer Umut Sakaroğlu has been hailed as a hero for his actions. He was standing guard as a terrorist tried to go through the first set of security.



Realising the danger people were in, Sakaroğlu shot at the suicide bomber, who then detonated his belt, killing the customs officer. However, his colleagues say had he not acted, many more people would have been killed.

'The explosion came very close to areas where passengers are waiting for people,' a source said. 'Unfortunately, at that moment Sakaroğlu was martyred. But if not for that intervention, there would be more casualties.'

Ukraine – Ukraine’s security service detains suspected IS fighters at Kharkiv airport

Ukraine’s security forces detained at the Kharkiv airport two Tajikistan nationals with suspected links to the activities of the Islamic State terrorist organization.



“The border guards at the Kharkiv airport together with the Security Service officers and the National Police have detected and detained two citizens of Tajikistan involved in the activity of the Islamic State and wanted by Interpol,” the press office of the Border Guard Service of Ukraine said.

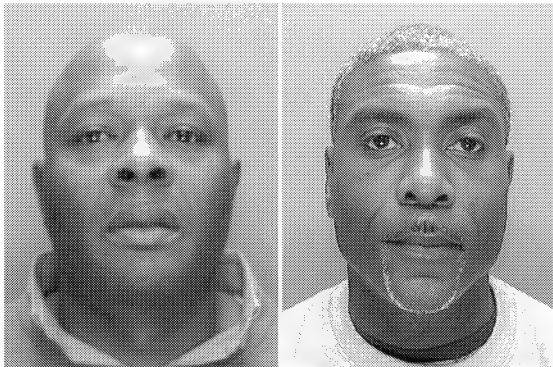
The Tajiks were detained at border control upon the arrival of flight Istanbul - Kharkiv. The Interpol database contains data on both men.

“During the questioning and search, the border guards found video tutorials in Arabic on making an improvised explosive device activated via cell phone. The flash media also contained photos of people of Muslim appearance carrying weapons. In addition, the men had extremist literature in their baggage. The detainees admitted they were planning to ‘organize an Islamic revolution in Tajikistan’,” the press service reported.

The Ukrainian national bureau of Interpol was informed immediately. The corresponding check confirmed that the Tajik nationals are on Interpol’s international wanted list as persons affiliated with the Islamic State.

United Kingdom – Wolverhampton gang members jailed over £200k drug smuggling plot

Richard Brown, aged 50, of no fixed abode and Jamaican national Dorbon Davis, 52, were both arrested at Gatwick Airport in November after Brown had flown in from St Lucia.



Brown was held by Border Force after officers discovered 2.5 kilos of cocaine in a hidden suitcase compartment. National Crime Agency investigators arrested Davis as he waited to collect him on the airport concourse. He initially denied knowing Brown but CCTV footage showed he had dropped him off at Gatwick on the outward leg of his trip.

Evidence from a SIM card recovered when Davis was arrested proved he had been in contact with Richard Brown and a third man, Alistair Brown, 30, who had driven down to Gatwick with Davis and was also at the airport on the day Richard Brown’s flight arrived.

Alistair Brown of Joan Street, Wolverhampton, was arrested by the NCA at his home in January.

Richard Brown pleaded guilty to importation charges and was sentenced to five years and three months. Davis and Alistair Brown were found guilty of being concerned in the importation of cocaine following a trial at Croydon Crown Court. Davis was given seven years and Alistair Brown two years, suspended for two years, plus 240 unpaid work.

Mark Rutterford of the NCA said evidence had linked all three to a plot to import cocaine worth £200,000.

United Kingdom – Man who tried to import drugs from China is jailed

A man who tried to import drugs from China has been jailed for two years. John Burke was arrested in November 2015 when Border Force officers intercepted a parcel at East Midlands Airport which was addressed to him.



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The Border Force officers found the parcel to contain white powder. It was analysed and found to contain cathinone derivative, a Class B drug.

John Burke, aged 42, of Mill Acre Close in Ilkeston, was sentenced to 21 months for fraudulently evading duty.

He was also sentenced to three months for breaching a suspended sentence previously imposed for possessing drugs with intent to supply in 2013. No separate penalty was imposed for possessing cathinone derivative.

He was sentenced at Derby Crown Court on Friday, June 10, following guilty pleas. (*Loughborough Echo*)

United Kingdom – Bristol Airport apologises for major delays after staff ‘unable to cope’

Bristol Airport has tweeted an apology on June 15 after passengers flying to the airport were forced to wait hours because staff on duty “could not cope” with the demand.



Due to ongoing strikes in France, several flights landed after midnight but a lack of staff meant passengers were unable to collect their luggage or go pass through passport control:

Immigration staff on duty could not cope and the lines to get through immigration reached as far back as the arrivals gate on the air bridges, the wait time was 1 hour plus, due to this wait the uncollected baggage on the luggage carousels caused these to breakdown then the short term car park had a barrier issue causing further delays. – David Archer

Bristol Airport has since apologised for the delays, but many expressed their anger, including Bristol Rovers football player Chris Lines: *Love these tunnels only been here 45 mins so far* 🙄🙄🙄

United Kingdom – Man jailed after ordering ten illegal stun guns from China

A man has been jailed for 18 months after ordering ten illegal stun guns made to look like mobile phones from China. Father-of-three James Jefferson, 37, from Glasgow, admitted purchasing the items, designed as self-defence weapons, which arrived in the UK in February 2013.

The High Court in Glasgow heard the items were X-rayed by UK Border Force at the Parcellforce International Hub in Coventry. The items were addressed to Jefferson’s partner at their then-address in Scotstounhill.

Advocate depute Neil Beardmore, prosecuting, said: “The package was inspected and found to contain ten stun guns, which looked like Nokia mobile phones. They are designed as self-defence weapons. They are not lethal but deliver a high voltage pulse sufficient to cause temporary incapacity. They were in working order.”

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The court heard that initially Jefferson denied ordering the items but subsequently admitted his guilt. Computers and paperwork, which were seized during a search of Jefferson's home, confirmed he was using a Chinese web-site.

Judge Lord Bannatyne told Jefferson if he had been convicted after trial he would have jailed him for 21 months.

United Kingdom – Smugglers hid cocaine inside golf clubs

Two drug smugglers were facing jail on June 17 after posing as golfers to flood the UK with millions of pounds of cocaine hidden in the shafts of their clubs.



Tony Bayne, 52, (pictured) and Taher Najmzadeh, 53, were recruited to fly overseas with golf bags as part of their luggage. The pair received cash as well as European and Caribbean holidays in return for smuggling the drugs between July 2012 and May 2014.

Police seized more than £3 million worth of cocaine, Snaresbrook crown court was told.

The couriers travelled with their golf equipment and took photographs of themselves holding their clubs as part of the ruse. Ahead of sentencing June 17, Judge Neil Sanders warned: "They are obviously facing substantial custodial sentences." Prosecutor Catherine Pattison had told jurors: "The method deployed to use

golf bags was rather ingenious because to an unsuspecting eye at customs or border control somebody ferrying a golf bag in or out would not cause any suspicion." She said the couriers "were not remotely interested in playing a round of golf".

Customs officers seized just under 17kg of cocaine with a street value of £3.3 million hidden in club shafts.

Bayne, of Southwark, and Najmzadeh, of Holloway, were recruited to travel to Curacao, an island in the Dutch Caribbean, as well as to European cities including Salzburg, Paris, Lille and Brussels. (*Evening Standard*)

United Kingdom – Ex-Judas Priest singer Tim 'Ripper' Owens denied entry to U.K.; Wildfire Festival appearance canceled

Former Judas Priest and Iced Earth frontman Tim "Ripper" Owens was forced to cancel his scheduled appearance at Scotland's only rock and metal festival after being denied entry to the United Kingdom Thursday, June 23.



Owens's June 24 appearance at Wildfire was being billed as "an exclusive one-off U.K." gig where he was supposed "perform tracks from the Judas Priest 'Live in London' album" as well as select cuts from both "Demolition" and "Jugulator", the two studio albums he recorded with the band.

The festival organizers said in a statement: "It is with massive regret that we have to announce that Tim Owens will no longer be able to play tomorrow night's show. "We arrived at Glasgow Airport this morning as Tim took time out from his tour of the Ukraine to play for us at Wildfire. Unfortunately, U.K. border patrol will not let him into the U.K. at this point in time and although we are trying everything we are able, we have little say in changing the minds of such a powerful U.K. agency. Both Tim and Wildfire would like to offer our sincere apologies at this time."

United Kingdom – Paisley conman tried to smuggle stun guns through Glasgow Airport

A Paisley conman was rumbled smuggling stun guns through airport security – after posting videos on social media detailing his master plan. Hapless Henry Morton now faces a five-year jail stretch for the possession of illegal weapons, which were disguised as mobile phones.



A judge at the High Court in Edinburgh was shown footage taken from Morton's Facebook account, titled Henry's Funny Videos 2014, as he pled guilty to firearms offences. In the self-shot video Morton identified himself and revealed he was at the Sunni Beach resort in Bulgaria. He said: "I just went to the supermarket today and I bought, as you can see, a nice iPhone4s. How would you like to have one of these yourself?"

Morton then demonstrated the weapon, which can discharge about 5000 volts, on film, before saying: "You f*** with me and you will get tasered and that's the truth." In further incriminating footage he was heard saying: "Got an iPhone 4 but it's no, it's a shocker."

Advocate depute Stewart Ronnie said Morton has also posted on his Facebook page that he was in Bulgaria and was going to bring back stun guns to the UK to sell for £300 each.

Father-of-four Morton, 37, of St James Street in the town, was later stopped going through the "nothing to declare" channel at customs at Glasgow Airport by Border Force officers. He was detained and his baggage was searched and two stun guns were found in a jumper. During an interview he claimed that he thought they were genuine iPhones and said he intended to use them as music players.

Mr Ronnie said: "The accused accepted he knew it was illegal to bring stun guns into the UK, having seen signs at Glasgow airport." After he was charged over the importation he replied: "Well, where's the evidence?"

Restaurant worker Morton admitted possessing without authority a disguised firearm and possessing two stun guns disguised as mobile phones at the airport on September 16 in 2014.

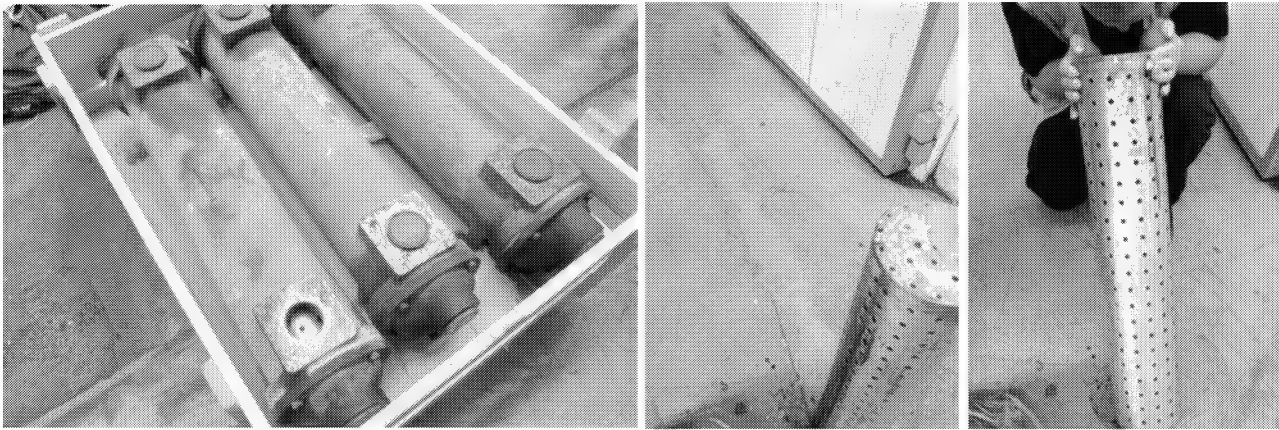
Previously, con artist Morton scammed a delivery driver out of two barbers' chairs but was caught attempting to flog them to another Paisley hairdresser. Morton was able to take possession of the seats after he pretended to be a pal of the salon owner they were being delivered to. In May, 2013, Paisley Sheriff Court heard he took the seats straight round to another barber and sold them for £60.

But his not-so-cunning plan came unstuck when the salon owner who should have taken delivery of the seats spotted them in the rival barber's premises later that day. After noting that the accused had a criminal record that includes a previous conviction for fraud, Sheriff Colin Pettigrew fined Morton £340 and told him to pay up at a rate of £20 per fortnight. (*Daily Record*)

United Kingdom – Huge haul of liquid cocaine valued £3 million seized at Gatwick Airport in failed drug smuggle

Drug smugglers have attempted to get 18 kilos of cocaine into the UK through Gatwick Airport by disguising it as oil. The huge haul of liquid cocaine valued at more than £3 million was seized at Gatwick Airport hidden in oil cylinders.

The liquid drugs were being disguised as oil in unaccompanied goods deliveries that were flown from the Caribbean to Gatwick.



UK Border police identified a suspect shipment coming into Gatwick from Barbados on July 17 and found 18 kilos of liquid cocaine on board, hidden inside three metal canisters described as “oil filters”. The narcotics had been given a pink colour.

The next day, National Crime Agency officers arrested 54-year-old Barbados-born Errol Watson outside his home in Queenswood Garden in Wanstead, East London. He was later charged with importation of controlled drugs and remanded in custody following an appearance at Thames Magistrates' Court on July 21.

Two men, aged 28 and 41, were also arrested in London and released on bailed, while police in Barbados arrested a further two men and recovered a quantity of cocaine. (*Surrey Mirror*)

United Kingdom – Heathrow passport security ‘cannot cope’ as border staff brought in from ports to ease chaos

Overstretched Heathrow security forces are struggling to cope at passport controls after being overwhelmed by soaring passenger numbers, the former head of the UK Border Agency has said as staff are drafted in from ports to ease the crisis.

Tony Smith, who retired from his senior Government post in 2013, said a budget freeze on border resources has left a vacuum amid the continued expansion at Britain’s busiest airport. “We have not kept up with the volume,” he said. “Heathrow has increased passenger volumes while, in reality, the Border Force budget has been declining for some years.”

Mr Smith’s security concerns were expressed after a long-serving member of south east Border Force staff revealed extra staff have been redeployed from Channel ports, which have also been plunged into mayhem by a lack of French security officials.

Some Border Force officials were starting their shifts at Dover, driving to Heathrow to do three hours’ airport work, before driving back, the source claimed, adding that staff were not given sufficient time to examine passports properly. He added: “We are being crucified. There is a high percentage of long term sick due to stress. We are being pushed completely and we cannot cope.”

Mr Smith said redeploying extra staff to Heathrow was unlikely to have any major impact on the situation at ports as the problem there is being caused by the failure by French authorities to provide enough staff.

The Home Office said it had an “agile, flexible and intelligence-led workforce” to respond to needs, adding the Border Force made “every effort” to minimise delays.

Kevin Mills of the Public and Commercial Services Union, said: “Redeploying staff from anywhere, particularly the south east when we’ve seen unprecedented levels of clandestine activity trying to cross the Channel, really isn’t a good move.”

Heathrow, which monitors immigration queues, said Border Force had a target of processing 95 per cent of non-European Economic Area passengers within 45 minutes. The number fell in June to 89.4 per cent in terminal two, 91.3 per cent in terminal three, 93.3 per cent in terminal four and 94.1 per cent in terminal five. Three of the four terminals also missed the 95 per cent target in May.

A Home Office spokesman said: "Keeping this country safe and secure is a top priority, which is why we undertake 100 per cent checks on everyone arriving in the UK. While every effort is made to keep delays for passengers to a minimum, when very large amounts of passengers arrive in a short space of time, it can mean a longer wait while these essential border security checks are conducted.

"Security is not compromised when staff are deployed from other ports or airports, it is maintained. Border Force has been set up to be agile, flexible and intelligence-led, deploying quickly according to need and responding to a variety of demands."

Heathrow said in a statement: "Heathrow has been talking to Border Force about how they can improve immigration waiting times during peak periods. There is not a trade-off between strong border security and a good passenger experience – at the UK's global gateway we want them to do their part to deliver both." (*The Telegraph*)

United Kingdom – Manchester Airport passengers slam 'longest ever' passport control queues

Angry holidaymakers arriving at Manchester Airport reported a weekend of misery after experiencing some of the 'longest passport control queues ever'.

Frustrated travellers took to social media claiming they were stuck in queues of up to 600 people, while others posted pictures showing lines snaking throughout terminals. Some passengers said they waited around an hour and a half to get through Border Force security controls.

On July 31, Colin Owen told how he was stuck with two small children in a queue of around '500 to 600' people in Terminal One, which then merged with another queue which also contained 'hundreds' of passengers.

Mr Owen, from Gatley, said: "It was the longest queue I had ever seen. We arrived and were made to wait ten minutes or so to get off the plane. And then when we did we went straight into a massive queue. And then when we got to the front of that we started queueing again."

Matt Lees, from Chorley, waited for almost an hour after landing at Terminal One from Faro on July 31. He said: "It wasn't ideal with two children under three. We walked down the skyway straight into a queue of around 600 people, and after waiting for ages that queue merged with another. There must have been more than 1,000 people waiting altogether.

"One man confronted a Border Force guy that was walking around and he said that it was world events which caused the delays but when we did get to the front they checked our passports at the same speed as always. I think that they were understaffed which is ridiculous when you consider how many flights are arriving at this time of year."



Sharon Ma added on Twitter: "Landed at 3.15pm and took 1.5hrs to get out the airport. @manairport sort your passport control queues out!!!! #Manchesterairport #nightmare"

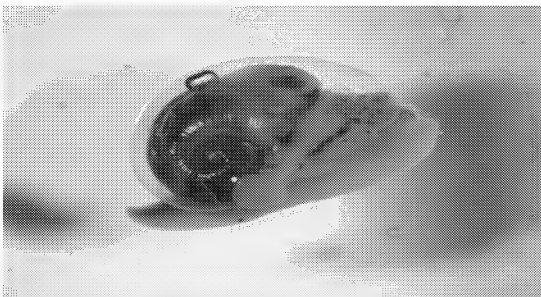
Manchester Airport replied: "Hi Sharon, we're sorry to hear this. We are currently working with Border Force to improve passport control."

A Home Office spokesperson said: "When very large amounts of passengers arrive in a short space of time, it can mean a longer wait while these essential border security checks are conducted. Whilst a huge amount of work goes into keeping disruption and delays for passengers to a minimum, our first priority will always

be maintaining the security of our borders." (*Manchester Evening News*)

USA – Dulles CBP intercepts first-in-port snail

A U.S. Department of Agriculture identifier confirmed that Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists at Dulles International Airport discovered a new pest in the Washington area when they intercepted *Caldivitrina* sp. (Vitrinidae), a type of snail, while inspecting an air cargo shipment of fresh flowers from the Netherlands on June 1.

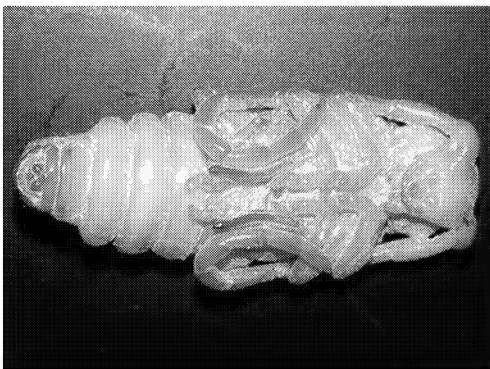


The snail was discovered in a 300-stem shipment of flowers from the Netherlands destined for Fairfax, Va. CBP forwarded the snail to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Plant Protection and Quarantine identifier office for classification.

CBP issued an Emergency Action Notification to the importer requiring the shipment to be re-exported or destroyed. The importer elected to have the shipment destroyed by steam sterilization under CBP agriculture specialist supervision.

USA – CBP intercepts new pest at Philadelphia International Airport

The U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed on June 3 that a long horned beetle larvae that U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists discovered inside a bamboo stick carried by a passenger arriving from Mexico, is the first recorded find of this species in Philadelphia.



CBP discovered the beetle larvae burrowed into a bamboo stick carried by a passenger arriving from Mexico. CBP submitted the pest specimen to the local USDA entomologist for identification and the bamboo was incinerated. USDA forwarded it to their national identifier where an entomologist confirmed the species as *Trachyderes* sp. of the Cerambycidae family and advised CBP that the insect is a pest new to the Philadelphia area.

According to the USDA, wood boring beetles of the family Cerambycidae, or long horned beetles, are known as major agricultural pests of coniferous and deciduous forests worldwide; attacking and sometimes killing live trees.



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USA – Man arrested after flashing gun at Orlando International Airport

A man accused of flashing a gun at Orlando International Airport personnel was arrested June 2 after a manhunt throughout the airport and a brief chase, police said. Orlando police said Brian Edward Jackson Jr., 35, was dressed in camouflage, military-style clothing when he tried getting inside an employee break room at the airport about 4:45 a.m.



A worker at an outside bag-check counter saw what Jackson was doing and asked whether he had any airport identification, an arrest report states. The worker told police Jackson said he didn't need identification because he was in the military, records show. The worker told Jackson he still needed ID. That's when the worker alleged Jackson pulled up his shirt and flashed a gun in his front waistband.

The worker said Jackson claimed "he didn't have to go through this" and that the worker

"could get in trouble" for stopping him, records show. He then gave the worker a Florida ID. Officials say Jackson then went into the break room, got a few items from a vending machine and left.

The worker alerted authorities and officers searched several levels of the airport, including several bathrooms. Witnesses inside the airport told officers the man got on a bus.

Police drove down Semoran Boulevard from the airport and pulled over a bus near Curry Ford Road, about seven miles away. An officer went inside the bus and spotted Jackson about 10 rows back. Jackson was removed from the bus and taken into custody. Officers said they found a loaded gun tucked in his waistband.

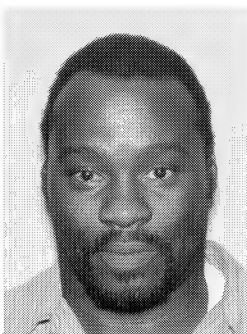
Jackson was arrested and facing charges including aggravated assault with a firearm, armed trespass in an occupied structure and carrying a concealed firearm.

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USA – Texan who shot at Border Patrol agents gets nearly 48 years

A West Texas man must serve nearly 48 years in federal prison for shooting at Border Patrol agents while fleeing



after being suspected of killing his ex-girlfriend.

Carl Wayne Wiley of Midland was sentenced June 6 in Del Rio. Jurors in February convicted Wiley of attempting to kill one or more agents, plus multiple counts of assault and discharging a gun during a violent crime.

Prosecutors say Wiley in June 2014 faced murder and attempted murder charges in Midland. Latonya Anders died in a drive-by shooting. A man was wounded.

Wiley was spotted in Sanderson, 170 miles south of Midland. He crashed his vehicle, fled into some brush, and then stole a truck and guns from nearby ranches.

Wiley was caught near the Comstock Border Patrol checkpoint after firing at agents.

USA – Two Salvadoran nationals sentenced to prison for assault on Border Patrol agent

Two Salvadoran nationals were sentenced to prison recently for an attack on a U.S. Border Patrol agent last year.

Saul Ernesto Carcamo-Henriquez, 39, and Carlos Enrique Campos-Carcamo, 19, both of El Salvador, pleaded guilty to assault on a federal officer in December. On June 7, Carcamo-Hernandez was sentenced to 63 months in federal prison, and Campos was sentenced to 27 months.

On Feb. 18, 2015, a Border Patrol agent assigned to the Carrizo Springs Station gave chase to Carcamo and Campos after seeing both subjects jump a high fence frequently used by illegal immigrants attempting to further their entry into the United States. Once the agent approached the individuals, both subjects became combative and attempted to choke the agent and reached for his service-issued weapon and baton. Fearing for his life, the agent fired his service weapon at his attackers, striking Campos. Carcamo stopped his assault and absconded from the area.

EMS personnel were summoned to the scene to provide medical attention to Campos, who was taken into custody and transported to a hospital for treatment of a non-life threatening injury from a gunshot wound. Carcamo was quickly apprehended with the assistance of a CBP Air and Marine Operations helicopter pilot and transported to the Carrizo Springs Station for processing. Both were determined to have entered the country illegally.

USA – Assault on Yuma Sector Border Patrol agent results in shooting

A Yuma Sector Border Patrol agent discharged his service-issued weapon while being assaulted by an adult male who crossed illegally into the United States near Somerton, Arizona, June 9 at approximately 10:00 p.m.

"During the arrest, the subject grabbed the agent's radio and collapsible steel baton and began striking him in the face and head while he also attempted to remove the agent's sidearm from its holster. The agent, fearing for his life, discharged his weapon, which struck the suspect.

Both the agent and suspect were transported to Yuma Regional Medical Center via ambulance, where medical professionals were unable to resuscitate the suspect and he was pronounced dead.

The agent sustained multiple bruises and lacerations to his head, face and torso, one of which required stitches to close the wound. He was also diagnosed with a concussion. In accordance with CBP policy, the agent has been placed on administrative leave.

USA – CBP deploys test of departure information systems technology at Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport

U.S. Customs and Border Protection will begin a test on June 13 of the re-architecture of its data systems capabilities to process departure data and support new facial comparison technology at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. CBP will test the ability of its information systems to compare images of travelers departing the United States against previously provided images in an automated fashion. The test will only affect travelers on one daily flight from the United States to Japan until September 30.



As part of the testing, travelers will present their boarding pass while their digital photo is taken. The process will take less than three seconds before travelers proceed to the passenger loading bridge to board their flight. Travelers over the age of 14 and under 79 will be required to participate in the test. The test will evaluate CBP's ability to successfully compare the image of a traveler taken during departure against an image the traveler previously provided, in an automated fashion and without impacting airport operations.

The digital images of travelers will be compared and held in secure CBP data systems for post-departure analysis. Travelers who travel with a U.S. passport will not have their data retained for the purposes of this test

once it is confirmed they are the true document holder. The test data will be deleted after the evaluation of the test.

USA – LAX baggage handler from Hawthorne arrested for rummaging through luggage

A Los Angeles International Airport baggage handler from Hawthorne was arrested after a co-worker found him rummaging through passengers belongings, police said. Oscar Aleman-Alonzo, 19, was arrested June 9 when he went to collect a paycheck, police said.

According to Airport police, Aleman-Alonzo was spotted May 25 on closed-circuit video taking a bag from a customs baggage area to a storage room and locking the door. A fellow employee who considered it suspicious walked into the room and found Aleman-Alonzo rummaging through the luggage. The employee called his supervisor, but Aleman-Alonzo ran away.

Airport police detectives went to two addresses looking for Aleman-Alonzo but could not find him. He was arrested on suspicion of grand theft when he returned to work to collect his final paycheck, police said. (*Daily Breeze*)

USA – Ex-minor leaguer admits to smuggling heroin into US

A former minor-league baseball player admitted on June 15 that he swallowed packets of heroin and smuggled them into the United States from the Dominican Republic.



Leandro Caminero, 26, was busted with 11 pellets in his body after stepping off a JetBlue flight in April at JFK Airport. "I tried to bring drugs into the United States," he told Brooklyn federal Judge Allyne Ross through a Spanish interpreter as he pleaded guilty to the drug charges. The former outfielder also told the judge he believed he was carrying cocaine.

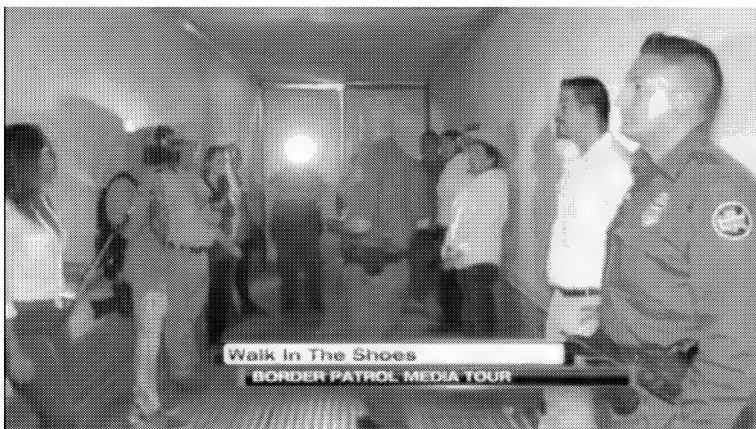
Court papers said Caminero became visibly nervous as he was searched at the airport. He faces between 37 and 46 months in prison at his sentencing in October, as well as deportation.

Caminero last played ball in 2012 for the Bowling Green Hot Rods, a Tampa Bay Rays farm team. (*New York Post*)

USA – Walk in the shoes of a Border Patrol agent

There is an alarming rise in deaths this year so far of people trying to illegally enter the United States. That's why Laredo Border Patrol took several members of the media on a guided tour highlighting the dangerous situations people risk to reach U.S. soil.

It is barely nine in the morning but many of us can feel the heat already as we are briefed by Laredo Border Patrol agents on a tour that will give us a snapshot of what several thousands of illegal immigrants go through all trying to reach the United States.



It's called, "The Walk in Their Shoes Tour", where we head out first on a one point two mile walk on a Private Ranch. And just a few minutes in, you can feel and see how dangerous the trek really is. "People are out here in the middle of nowhere obviously it's extremely hot right now and it's still early in the morning as you can see the dangers these people face when trying to get into the United States," said Enrique Martinez.

Enrique Martinez is one of many agents on the tour who has seen the dangers that the rugged terrain and harsh environment can



have on illegal immigrants. "By the time they get here they are not well fed, some of them are already injured from broken ankles to broken legs. We've seen a little bit of everything," said Martinez.

With water scare many resort to ponds thinking the water is clean. "We saw the tank a while ago and that's where people up getting water. It leads them to more complications as they continue their journey," said Martinez.

As of this year there's been over 24,000 apprehensions over 300 rescues that include people being rescued inside 18 wheelers and so far 42 deaths almost doubling last year's numbers.

We then are brought into a tractor trailer; this is one of many ways immigrants try to get into the country. Over the span of three minutes, we felt just how hot his trailer could get however this hasn't stopped many from trying to get into the United States.

"You have no way to get out and once you are in there you are trapped. There is no way to get out and you are putting your life in danger. You are going to be in there for a long period of time ten," said chief Mario Martinez.

Another way Border Patrol is trying to avoid any tragedies is by setting up the deer blind initiative. There are over 2,000 green towers in several private owned ranches and along the border. That's where illegals can call a number and a rescue team will come and help them. The number comes with coordinates so they can be tracked faster.

Chief Martinez says the public can also help by reporting if they see any illegal activity. "Don't think you are giving them a break or you are helping them out for not exposing them. Sometimes we have to save them from themselves," said Martinez.

Laredo Border Patrol began the initiative back in 1998 and has been working with several foreign consulate representatives from central American countries to prevent the unfortunate loss of life.

Members of the media saw and felt firsthand the dangers associated with illegally entering the United States. This was all part of a tour set up by Border Patrol to prevent death and increase rescues of illegal immigrants who fall prey to human smugglers.

The dangerous terrain and harsh environment are just a few factors that shorten the trip of many looking to enter the United States. "There is a lot of dangers out there, everything from snakes, uncertain terrain. To do that in the middle of the night with no lights is even more dangerous. Drinking water out of these tanks becomes more hazardous than they believe. So they find themselves desperate," said chief Mario Martinez. (KGNS)

USA – Cocaine hidden in luggage at Bush airport lands man in prison

A 30-year-old New Jersey man has been sent to prison for more than five years after he tried to smuggle cocaine through George Bush Intercontinental Airport last year, officials said.

Christopher Curi was sentenced to five years and 10 months in federal prison after he pleaded guilty in January to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced June 23. Officials said Curi also must serve four years of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence.

Curi, officials said, arrived at Bush airport on Feb. 21, 2015, on a flight from Lima, Peru. When agents with Customs and Border Protection inspected Curi's checked luggage they found several gel-like figurines, packages of powdered condiments, a bottle of liquor and picture frames. The figurines emitted an unusual odor and appeared to be cracking.

The figurines, officials said, tested positive for cocaine, the condiment packages contained cocaine and cocaine was hidden inside the picture frames and liquor bottle. (*Houston Chronicle*)

USA – Honduran man punched Border Patrol agent in the face

A Honduran migrant punched a Border Patrol agent in the face June 26 near Peñitas, according to the federal criminal complaint against him.



At about 7:30 p.m. June 25, agents attempted to detain migrants in the La Palomas Wildlife Management Area near Peñitas. An agent searching the area noticed Ssahil Jose Lainez-Fugon hiding under a bush.

The agent asked Lainez-Fugon to "come here" and grabbed his legs. The man didn't comply and attempted to run away. When the agent grabbed him, Lainez-Fugon turned around and punched the agent in the jaw. Several agent subdued Lainez-Fugon.

FBI agents reviewed the incident and charged Lainez-Fugon with resisting apprehension.

USA – Woman caught smuggling cocaine at Charlotte Airport pleads guilty to drug charges

In separate case, Jamaican national sentenced to 30 months in prison for airport drug conspiracy

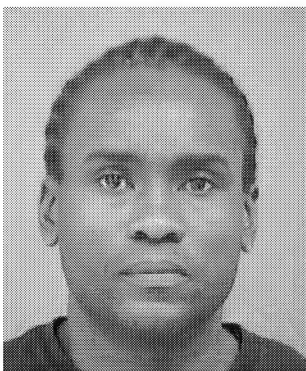


Shavona Danisha Pyatt, 28, of Conway, N.C., appeared in federal court June 27 and pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, announced Jill Westmoreland Rose, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina.

According to filed plea documents, on November 13, 2015, Pyatt arrived at Charlotte Douglas International Airport (Charlotte Douglas Airport) on a direct flight from Montego Bay, Jamaica. Upon entering the United States, Pyatt presented herself to CBP agents at primary inspection at the airport. Pyatt acknowledged packing her own luggage. At secondary inspection, CBP agents discovered that Pyatt was attempting to smuggle cocaine pellets hidden both in her luggage and pants. Court records indicate that CBP agents recovered additional cocaine pellets hidden in Pyatt's body cavities. A total of 61 pellets containing between 400 grams to 500 grams of cocaine

were recovered from Pyatt. Pyatt was interviewed by HSI agents and stated that she intended to deliver the cocaine to Myrtle Beach, S.C. in exchange for \$12,000.

Pyatt was detained following the plea hearing. The charge levied against her carries a maximum prison term of 20 years and a \$1,000,000 fine. A sentencing date has not been scheduled yet.



In a separate case, Winston Sherif Richards, 40, of Jamaica, was sentenced on June 27 by Chief U.S. District Judge Frank D. Whitney to 30 months in prison, and one year of supervised release on federal drug conspiracy charges. According to court records, in October 2015, Richards was arrested when he attempted to smuggle cocaine through customs security at Charlotte Douglas Airport. Court records show that law enforcement found two bags of cocaine weighing approximately 822 grams, hidden within the lining of Richard's backpack. Richards told law enforcement that he was hired by a man to bring some "stuff" to the United States and to deliver it to an unknown man in New York. Richards later admitted in court that he actively participated in the drug conspiracy. Richards pleaded guilty in March 2016 to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine.

In handing down Richards' sentence, Judge Whitney said that this prison sentence will help deter future drug trafficking at the Charlotte airport. In addition to the prison term imposed, the court ordered Richards be deported upon completion of his sentence.



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In a third prosecution involving drug smuggling at the airport, Tamara Williams-Kelly, 37, of Jamaica has also pleaded guilty to federal drug charges. According to court records, in February 2016, Williams-Kelly flew into Charlotte Douglas Airport from Jamaica. At the airport, CBP agents recovered a total of 1.57 kilograms of packaged powder cocaine hidden in the defendant's carry-on luggage and on her person. Court records show that Williams-Kelly told law enforcement she was promised \$7,000 as payments for delivering the drugs to Norfolk, Virginia. Williams-Kelly pleaded guilty on April 29, 2016, to one count of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine, one count of unlawful importation of cocaine conspiracy and one count of unlawful importation of cocaine. She is currently in federal custody awaiting sentencing.

All three cases are the result of HSI's Airport Drug Interdiction initiative that targets international drug smuggling and financial crimes, including money laundering, bulk cash smuggling, and unlicensed money transmitters/transporters that utilize air travel to further their criminal enterprise.

USA – Cuban citizen found in Blaine after escaping community custody in Tacoma

U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the Peace Arch Port of Entry took a 54-year-old Cuban citizen into custody when the **Canada Border Services Agency** returned him to Blaine.

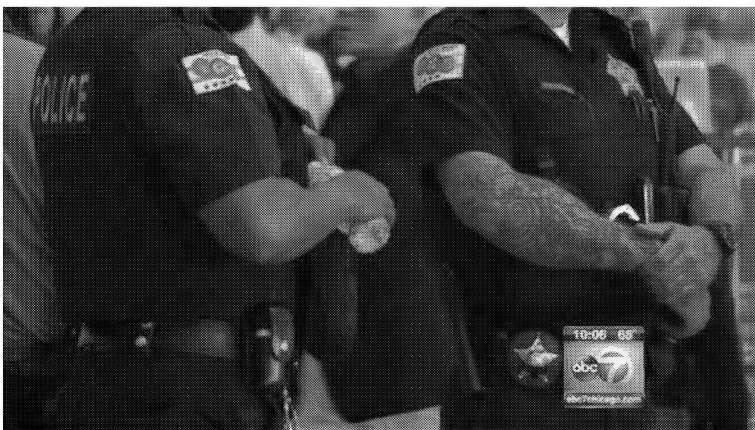


A routine review of the NCIC database revealed that a warrant existed out of Thurston County. The warrant, for escaping community custody, was issued in early April. The resident of Tacoma had been on the lam ever since.

After confirmation of the warrant, the Whatcom County Sheriff's office took the man into custody without incident. He was later released to the Department of Corrections.

USA – More than half the police in Chicago airports are unarmed

If armed terrorists rushed the front entrances at Chicago's airports they would find more than half of all uniform police officers at O'Hare and Midway are unarmed.



At O'Hare and Midway not all 500 sworn police officers are created equal. Regular Chicago police carry guns. City Aviation Department police do not, even though they all undergo law enforcement training and certification. The unarmed airport police say that would be a problem in a terrorist attack.

With passengers scattering in Istanbul, authorities say armed police near the front door brought down at least one of the terrorists and stopped him from shooting even more people before blowing himself up.

At Chicago's airports there are about 230

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armed Chicago police officers and nearly 300 unarmed aviation police. "We are the only airport that allow our police officers to be unarmed while on duty," says 29th Ward Alderman Chris Taliaferro.

Taliaferro has been a Chicago police officer for more than two decades. He's now on leave, serving his first term as 29th Ward Alderman. Last spring he introduced an ordinance that would arm aviation police. It's now stalled in committee.

"Coupled with being unarmed they are taught as part of their training to run and hide. Certainly any law enforcement officers-- in my 21 years as a police officer I've never been taught to run and hide. We've always been taught to serve and protect," Taliaferro says.

That run and hide policy is "a recipe for failure" in a terrorist attack such as Istanbul, according to Matt Brandon, with the union that represents unarmed aviation officers. The union has been pressing for aviation cops to be armed for decades.

Matt Brandon, Secretary-Treasurer of SEIU Local 73, which represents Aviation Department police officers, also issued a statement, saying: "The attack on the International Airport in Istanbul, as tragic as it was, would have been much worse if an armed officer had not stopped one of the terrorists from detonating his suicide vest in a crowd of panicked travelers. Aviation officers at the airports here in Chicago should be able to defend the passengers who use O'Hare and Midway airports, the workers who service them, and themselves from this threat.

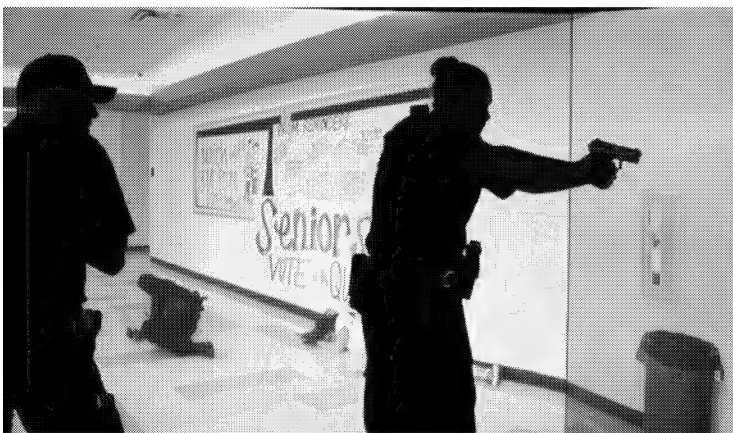
"The current policy of TSA and the City of Chicago Department of Aviation that Aviation Officers should 'run and hide' in the event of a terrorist attack is a recipe for failure! Local 73 continues to demand that the Aviation officers at O'Hare and Midway airports be armed for the public's safety, and for officer's safety." (ABC 7 Chicago)

USA – U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers showcase realistic training simulator

A training simulator used by law enforcement officers provides about the most realistic experience they can imagine. The VirTra V-300 is a five-screen, 300-degree virtual use of force training simulator that elicits the officer's use of verbal commands, positioning and a full range of less-lethal devices and firearms.

"It provides a very realistic law enforcement scenario," said Michael Dufrane, firearms instructor for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. "The simulator gives the officer a chance to use everything at their disposal."

The simulator was installed at the Massena Port of Entry last June, and it gives officers the ability to step into another location without leaving the simulator that's located in one of the CBP buildings at the port of entry. They can also interact with individuals they encounter during the simulation, whether it's innocent bystanders or the subjects. "One of the advantages is it's indoors," so weather can never postpone the training, Mr. Dufrane said.



On June 29, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers showcased some of the scenarios. Altogether, there are more than 150 possible scenarios, according to Mr. Dufrane. And even if an officer sees a scenario for a second time, changes can be made to keep him or her on guard.

In one of the scenarios, officers received a call of shots fired at a school. As two officers stood on a platform with five screens around them, James Walwrath, a CBP supervisor and instructor, called up the scenario on a computer.

Suddenly, the two officers were inside the



school building, walking through the halls that held banners advertising the upcoming prom. Along the way, they encountered individuals on the floor, as well as others rushing out of rooms and pointing them toward the library.

Inside the library, they found more students who had dropped to the floor and others who were rushing through the room to escape a gunman. When the gunman appeared across the room and drew his weapon toward the officers, he was shot by one of them. They later located another gunman and shot him, as well as a third who was holding a hostage. He was also shot and the hostage was unharmed.

In another scenario, officers were called to a home, where they encountered two individuals in a swimming pool and a third person coming out of a house to their right. As the officers moved closer, talking to the individuals as they moved, the person on their right refused to comply, became belligerent and was shot with a Taser. Then, in a flash, one of the individuals in the pool quickly pulled a gun and pointed it at one of the officers, who quickly shot that individual.

"As soon as it broke that barrier, it was a gun," said the officer, who could not be identified.

Officers going through the simulation have to be vigilant. Is a person standing next to a vehicle reaching in for a cell-phone or a gun? "We have to make a decision that just takes a split second. Things happen fast," Mr. Walwrath said.

Following the simulation exercise, officers take part in a debriefing and, because the scenario is on the computer, can go step-by-step through what they encountered and what actions they took.

Mr. Dufrane said their simulator, which is also used by other law enforcement agencies, is as lifelike as it gets. The officers are armed with sidearms, rifles, Tasers and a can of spray that can be fired into the subject's face. Rather than bullets and spray, though, the officers fire a laser at the subjects on the screens to their front, left and right.



With the exception of the laser rather than bullets and spray, Mr. Dufrane said each piece of equipment is exactly what officers would use in the field, right down to the magazine that contains the bullets and the recoil that would accompany the firing of the M-4 rifle.

"It is a valuable tool that really makes you think," said Tim Walker, Alexandria Bay area port director, adding that it also allows officers to develop hand and eye coordination.

"It's relatively new. It went live in Massena about a year ago. The training is realistic," said Robert Dwyer, Massena port director.

As they enter the simulation scenarios, Mr. Walwrath said officers also need to be aware of limitations on the use of force, based on the severity of the crime, the threat they encounter and the person's resistance or fleeing from the officer. Before using force, they have to know the intent, know the ability or capability of the subject and know the opportunity that has presented itself.

"We have to take all of those things into consideration. We always have to look at the balance. The more violent the resistance is, the more force we have to use," Mr. Walwrath said.

The goal, he said, is to take control of the situation as quickly as possible to reduce injuries to the subject or the officer. And, with the training simulator, they can hone those skills so they're prepared when a real life situation presents itself. (*Watertown Daily Times*)

USA – CBP Cincinnati finds heroin, fentanyl



U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in Cincinnati have seized more than 10lbs of heroin in a shipment from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In late June, Narcotics Detector Dog, "Freddy," alerted to the shipment manifested as "praying items". Officers x-rayed the shipment revealing to large objects, each showing anomalies. A physical inspection revealed two red candles with two bags of a brownish powder inserted in the candles. Tests of the substance confirmed the presence of heroin.

Although this shipment was destined for Ontario, Canada, heroin trafficking and use is a concern in Ohio.

USA – Man, wanted on two warrants, arrested at border

U.S. border officers arrested a 45-year-old man at the Peace Arch crossing in June after an inspection found he was wanted on two outstanding warrants in Washington state.

The man, from Toppenish, Wash., arrived at the border on June 29 with no identification and gave a false name to officers; fingerprints revealed his real identity and the two warrants, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials.

One warrant was for failure to appear on charges of trafficking stolen property, another was for operating a vehicle without a valid licence. (*Peace Arch News*)

USA – Boston CBP arrests 2 PA men, foils cocaine smuggling attempt

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers arrested two Pennsylvania men July 2 at Logan International Airport on cocaine smuggling allegations.



CBP officers arrested Erick Dominguez-Santos, 25, of Whitehall, Pa., and Ezra Mendez, 19, of Allentown, Pa., after discovering a little more than 13 combined pounds of cocaine in their baggage, and turned them over to the Massachusetts State Police.

Dominguez-Santos and Mendez arrived on a flight from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and were separately selected for secondary examinations. During their baggage inspections, CBP officers detected that their roll-erbag-type baggage remained heavy even after emptied of their contents, and that the bottom of the bags were unusually thick.

During an x-ray examination, CBP officers detected flat-rectangular anomalies in the baggage bottoms. Officers then probed the anomalies and discovered a white, powdery substance that field-tested positive for the properties of cocaine. Each cocaine package weighed approximately 3 kilograms, or about 6.5 pounds.

USA – CBP officers in Tampa seize counterfeit Super Bowl rings

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations officers at Tampa International Airport seized



counterfeit NFL championship rings in a shipment from China worth a total estimated Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price of \$300,000.

CBP officers discovered the rings while conducting consignment facilities operations. NFL representatives confirmed the findings, indicating that the rings were a poor attempt to duplicate Super Bowl images and hand tags.

USA – Feds shoot at woman trying to run them down at Texas border bridge

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer fired on a woman crossing an international bridge from Mexico after she attempted to run them down while entering Texas.

A 22-year-old woman, a U.S. citizen, was returning to Texas from Reynosa, Mexico, when she attempted to bypass security by driving through the border crossing checkpoint at a high rate of speed. It appears she attempted to run down CBP officers trying to stop her. One of the officers fired a shot from a service-issued shotgun, CBP officials revealed.

The officer fired his weapon after witnessing that his fellow officers' lives were in danger, the statement said. Other officers in a pursuit vehicle chased the woman as she left the bridge and drove into Texas. At some point during the pursuit, the woman made a quick U-turn in her 2004 Chevy Cavalier and struck the pursuit vehicle head on.

The woman was injured in the crash. She was secured by the CBP officers on the scene and police officers from the McAllen Police Department arrived to arrest her. She was transported to a local hospital for treatment of her injuries. No Customs and Border Protection officers were injured in the incident on the bridge or in the crash.

It has not yet been determined why the woman attempted to run the security checkpoint and illegally re-enter the United States. It was also not revealed if the woman had any kind of contraband in her vehicle at the time of the incident. (*Breitbart News*)

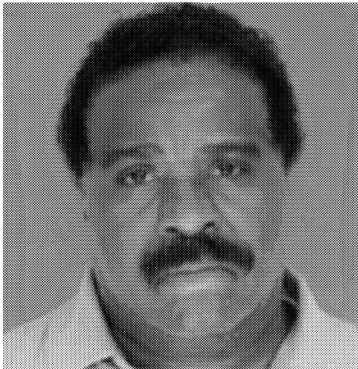
USA – Columbus concert promoter charged with having 18 pounds of heroin at New Jersey airport

Columbus concert promoter Alfred Battle was arrested July 17 as he arrived at the Newark, New Jersey airport with what authorities said was 18 pounds of heroin in his carry-on bag.



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Battle, 60, who was on a flight originating in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was ushered into a private inspection room after a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent noticed his bag seemed heavy. It was there they found a false bottom in the bag hiding the heroin, customs agents said.

After the airport inspection revealed the heroin, customs agents called the Port Authority police, who arrested him. The case "was given to us with a bow on it," said Joe Pentangelo, Port Authority Police spokesman.

Battle is charged with possession of a controlled and dangerous substance and distribution of heroin. He is being held in the Essex County Jail. Bail has been set at \$500,000, according to Essex County Prosecutor's Office spokeswoman Katherine Carter. She said he has pled not guilty. (*The Columbus Dispatch*)

USA – Chai Lifeline thanks U.S. Customs 'Super-Hero' Chief

Every summer, a number of Camp Simcha campers fly into NY from Israel. Under the circumstances, it is extremely difficult and uncomfortable for the children to travel such a long distance. Each year, the airport is kind enough to arrange for a bus to take the kids straight off the airplane so they do not have to walk through the airport. This is not a simple favor, it requires a lot of work getting clearance.



This year, The Deputy Chief of U.S. Customs, Clary, said he will go out of his way to make it as comfortable as possible for the children.

U.S. Customs went above and beyond. They opened a room across from the gate for customs, and from there the kids went straight onto a bus. Clary carried the children from the room, onto the bus (pictured at left) along with the help of Supervisor Sinclair who carried a wheelchair down the steps onto the bus.

Supervisor Sinclair was so incredibly moved by our campers, he came to visit them the next day up in Camp Simcha.

Thank you to Ronni Mann of El Al for making this happen, and thank you to our superheroes over at the U.S. Customs at JFK, especially Clary and Sinclair. (*The Yeshiva World News*)

USA – CBP arrests Jamaican woman, seizes nearly 3 pounds of cocaine at BWI

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers arrested a Jamaican woman July 18 after they discovered nearly three pounds of cocaine in her baggage at Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI).

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CBP officers turned the cocaine and Trudian James, 30, over to the Maryland State Police for local prosecution.

James arrived to BWI about 4:30 p.m. During a secondary baggage examination, CBP officers noticed that the bottom of her suitcase was unusually thick. An x-ray detected a mass, which CBP officers probed and discovered a white, powdery substance that field-tested positive for cocaine.

The cocaine and packaging weighed about 1300 grams or nearly 2 pounds, 14 ounces. It has a street value of approximately \$90,000.

CBP officers paroled James into the U.S. for prosecution and issued a detainer for her to be returned to CBP custody to complete her international arrivals inspection.

USA – Woman caught with \$160K in crystal meth by CBP officers at LAX

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) seized 11.24 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, hidden within the lining of a passenger's suitcase on July 18th.

CBP officers referred a 27-year-old U.S. citizen female from San Ysidro, CA that was arriving from Guadalajara, Mexico for a secondary inspection due to her nervous behavior. A further inspection of the passenger's baggage revealed a false compartment containing tape-wrapped packages of crystallized methamphetamine.



The passenger was subsequently arrested and turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations Special Agents, along with the seized contraband, for further investigation.

USA – Suicidal Portuguese man returned to Blaine after Canada refuses entry

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Pacific Highway Port of Entry took a 56-year-old man from Portugal into custody when **Canada Border Services Agency** found he had previously been deported from Canada due to his extensive criminal record and narcotics abuse. The subject also stated he was going to commit suicide in Seattle.

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The man was receiving methadone treatments and diabetic. He entered the U.S. on June 29 at Logan International Airport in Boston, under the visa waiver program.

The subject's criminal record in Canada included 33 convictions, including narcotics possession and trafficking, assault on an officer, theft, breaking and entering with intent, as well as driving under the influence.

CBP notified emergency medical services notified after the subject's initial interview. He was transported to Saint Joseph's Hospital for medical and mental evaluations. The subject returned to Blaine four hours later, and was processed for visa waiver program removal and transported to the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma.

The subject was found to be removable from the U.S. for breaking many sections of law.

USA – CBP officers nab Toppenish man wanted on two warrants

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at Peace Arch Port of Entry took a man into custody when an inspection revealed two outstanding felony warrants in Mount Vernon.

The 45-year-old Toppenish resident arrived at the border with no identification and gave a false name to officers. The subject's fingerprints revealed his real identity, along with two warrants.

The felony warrants involved a failure to appear on charges of trafficking stolen property, and operating a vehicle without a valid license. After confirmation of the warrants by the Mount Vernon Police Department, the man was taken to the Whatcom County jail before extradition to Skagit County.

USA – Heroin found in left over baggage

On July 22, an LOB off the XL 540 flight from Guayaquil, Ecuador was encountered on the baggage carousel at Terminal 8. Inside the bag were two large bricks which tested positive for heroin.



Afterwards the airline's representatives notified CBP that a passenger off this flight was frantic and was inquiring about this bag. The passenger was an Ecuadorian B2 visitor that had arrived on the same flight. He was escorted into the FIS area and he admitted that the bag was his and that he and his family were being threatened to be killed should he not deliver the bag.

Soon afterwards it was discovered that the subject's associate was also in the arrivals hall and that Ecuadorian male B2 visitor was escorted into the FIS

area. It was determined that both individuals were cousins. Both were arrested and turned over to HSI for prosecution. A total of 9.76 kilos (21.5 pounds) of narcotics were seized.

USA – Blaine Police reports, June 1 – July 24

June 2, 2:06 p.m.: Border Patrol agents contacted a pedestrian walking near the Pacific Highway port of entry, and advised Blaine Police that the woman might be experiencing significantly altered perceptions or possibly a medical impairment. A police officer responded and interviewed the traveler from California who had been denied entry to Canada. He provided her a courtesy ride to the hospital for a voluntary mental health evaluation.



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June 9, 12:28 a.m.: Police were dispatched to the Peace Arch port of entry for a suspended driver. An officer arrived and confirmed the suspension. The driver was arrested, cited and then released with a mandatory court date.

June 10, 8:32 p.m.: Officer was dispatched to the Peace Arch port of entry in reference to a person driving with a suspended driver's license. Officer arrived and confirmed the person was driving with a suspended driver's license. The driver was arrested and released with a court date.

June 10, 7:40 p.m.: A woman who had traveled from Virginia came to the police department to report her vehicle had been stolen. According to the woman she had tried to report her vehicle stolen in Kirkland where the car went missing. Apparently she was not able to report the car stolen so she took a taxi to the Peace Arch crossing where she attempted to go to Canada. Sadly, the woman was not allowed to enter Canada because she had no passport. An officer gave the woman a courtesy ride to a hotel.

June 12, 1:06 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the Peace Arch port of entry for a possible violation of a no contact order. The officer arrived, and although a violation appears to have occurred, there are two conflicting orders making it plausible the person(s) involved were not trying to actually violate the order. The officer documented the incident and will forward the report to the appropriate court in King County in case they need to modify one of the orders and to be made aware a possible violation occurred.

June 18, 12:15 a.m.: Police were contacted by a harbor security officer who had encountered a transient who had been denied entry into Canada and needed a ride to the airport. An officer gave the stranded traveler a courtesy ride to near BLI.

June 18, 9:30 a.m.: Dispatch advised Blaine officers of a person loitering in a residential neighborhood near the border carrying a black backpack. Police and agents contacted the man. He explained he had tried going to Canada by bus so that he could fly from Vancouver back to his native Sudan, but was denied entry at the border. He had valid status in the U.S., and was provided information and directions to help him in his travels.

June 18, 8:30 p.m.: Police responded to the Peace Arch port of entry on a report of a person there with a counterfeit \$100 bill. An officer interviewed the person in possession of the bill: he is a car salesmen involved in a lot of cash transactions. He was unsure when he received the fake note. It was impounded and will be forwarded to the U.S. Secret Service.

June 19, 2:01 p.m.: Police were dispatched to the Peach Arch port of entry for an unlicensed adult driver who had never tried to get a license, fearing they could not pass the test. He forwarded a report to the prosecutor for review and advised the now-former driver they would be summonsed to court. The vehicle was later released to a licensed relative who drove up from Mt. Vernon.

June 23, 1:20 p.m.: U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer at the Peace Arch port of entry called Blaine Police when they discovered a traveler in possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. A Blaine officer arrived to investigate and verified that the substances were prescription medications for which the possessor did not have a valid prescription. The 25-year-old was arrested and booked into jail after processing.

June 25, 7:19 p.m.: Blaine Police were called to the Peace Arch port of entry to investigate a possible violation of a no contact order issued by a court. An officer investigated, confirmed the order was valid and had been violated, and arrested the 36-year-old suspect. He was booked into jail without incident.

June 28, 8 p.m.: Washington State Patrol requested assistance with a vehicle that was eluding a pursuing trooper northbound on Interstate 5 at over 100 mph. Blaine officers helped the trooper get the car stopped about 150 yards south of the Canadian border and remained to assist until the driver was safely arrested and the scene was secured.

June 29, 1:53 p.m.: CBP officers at the Peace Arch port of entry found a personal use amount of cocaine in the possession of a traveler applying to enter the US. Blaine Police were called and an officer arrived, investigated,

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and arrested the 25-year-old Canadian resident. He was booked in to jail and his drug of choice was booked in to evidence.

July 1, 6:04 a.m.: Police were dispatched to US Customs and Border Protection at the Peace Arch for a report of a suspended driver. An officer verified the British Columbia resident's suspended Washington driving privilege. He arrested the motorist and released him with a criminal citation and mandatory court date.

July 2, 1:43 a.m.: US customs officers at the Peace Arch port of entry requested assistance with a possibly impaired driver. A Blaine officer contacted the motorist and conducted field sobriety tests. The driver was not impaired but did admit to being very tired. He accepted advice about getting some rest before continuing his journey.

July 24, 5:01 p.m.: Blaine police were advised of a stolen motor vehicle that was being followed by state patrol and sheriff's deputies in the Blaine area. Two Blaine officers responded to I-5 northbound, past exit 276. The car thief was apprehended prior to making it to Canada. Blaine officers then cleared the scene. (*The Northern Light*)

USA – Dulles CBP arrests three fugitives, including a Louisiana homicide suspect

U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Washington Dulles International Airport arrested three men wanted on warrants out of Virginia and Louisiana.

Mujib Mulawwah Aldhafeeri, 33, of Arlington, Va., arrived July 29 on a flight from Saudi Arabia. CBP officers determined Aldhafeeri to be the subject of an arrest warrant obtained by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police for vehicle theft. CBP officers verified the validity of the warrant and confirmed extradition. CBP officers arrested Aldhafeeri and turned him over to Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority police officers.

CBP placed an immigration detainer on Aldhafeeri, who is an international student, which ensures that he is returned to CBP upon the adjudication of any charges for further immigration processing.

Later that day, Amin B. Virani, 39, of Laurel, Md., arrived on a flight from Germany. CBP officers determined Virani to be the subject of an arrest warrant obtained by the Louisiana State Police for homicide. CBP officers verified the validity of the warrant and confirmed extradition. CBP officers arrested Virani and turned him over to Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority police officers for extradition.

Igor Pascal, 51, of Arlington, Va., arrived July 30 on a flight from Germany. CBP officers determined Pascal to be the subject of an arrest warrant obtained by the Fairfax County, Va. Police Department for felony hit and run. CBP officers verified the validity of the warrant and confirmed extradition. CBP officers arrested Pascal and turned him over to Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority police officers for extradition.

Vietnam – 1.2 tons of khat seized at Vietnam airport

Customs officers at Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat Airport have seized a total of 1.2 tons of the narcotic stimulant khat in five separate cases recently.



The latest case was detected on June 4 when the agency seized 336kg in cargo sent to a company in Binh Thanh District. The company, whose name was not disclosed, had declared the consignment from Kenya as tea leaves. On May 25 customs seized 170kg sent to the same company.

Two other seizures were made on May 17 and 29 of 510 kg sent to a company in District 1 and a man in Dong Nai Province.

Investigators said the leaves were set to be smuggled to the US, Australia and European countries.

On May 18 a HCMC company managed to obtain a license from the Plant Inspection Department to export 34 kg of khat leaves to the US by declaring the consignment as henna



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leaves. But it was seized at Tan Son Nhat airport. Police are investigating the smuggling cases.

A police official who asked not to be named estimated the market value of 1.2 tons of khat leaves at more than US\$2.2 million. (*Thanh Niên News*)

Vietnam – South African man nabbed at Vietnam airport with 1.7 kg of cocaine

Police and customs officers in Ho Chi Minh City arrested a South African man for smuggling 1.7 kilograms of cocaine into Vietnam.

The 32-year-old man, whose name was withheld, was caught with the drug hidden in separate plastic bags in his luggage, when he arrived at Tan Son Nhat Airport on a flight from Qatar's Doha on June 10.

The batch could have been sold for US\$300,000 and the man had been promised \$3,500, the man reportedly told the police. Investigation is ongoing. (*Thanh Niên News*)

Vietnam – Vietnamese-Australian woman sentenced to death in Vietnam for heroin smuggling



A court in Ho Chi Minh City on June 29 sentenced a Vietnamese-Australian woman to death for attempting to smuggle 2.8 kilograms of drugs to Sydney.

Nguyen Thi Huong, 73, was arrested at Tan Son Nhat International Airport in December 2014 with the heroin hidden in soap bars.

Huong said she visited Vietnam the month earlier and a Thai woman in HCMC's neighbor province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau gave her the soaps to carry to Australia. She said she did not know of the drugs.

The court decided to hold her fully responsible. (*Thanh Niên News*)

Vietnam – Chinese passports featuring illegal nine-dash line nullified in Vietnam

Separate on-arrival visas are issued to holders of Chinese passports that feature the nine-dash line that represents China's illegal claim to the East Vietnam Sea, as Vietnamese border control officers refuse to stamp the books.

The historic ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration on July 12 has dismissed China's absurd claim to the East Vietnam Sea, which is expressed through an imaginary nine-dash demarcation line covering almost the entire waterway.



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Thousands of these illegal lines, however, are sent en masse to Vietnam through Chinese passports, of which they are printed on several pages in an attempt by the Chinese government to legitimize their unlawful claim.

Mong Cai International Border Gate in the northern province of Quang Ninh is one of the busiest border gates in the country, through which up to 3,000 Chinese nationals pass daily to get into Vietnam for travel, work, and business. Since 2012, the border defense force and police at the gate have detected a new design of the Chinese passport, of which the nine-dash line is printed on several pages.

Vietnam border control officers have since practiced a consistent policy of refusing to stamp such passports and issuing a separate visa on arrival for their holders for use within Vietnam's territory.

"[Holders of such passports] have to agree to use a separate visa issued by Vietnam, without getting an entry stamp on their passports," Tran Ngoc Tuan, director of a travel agency in Mong Cai City, said. "We explain to them that Vietnam would not put a stamp on their passports because the nine-dash line there has no legal value."

On July 14, Vice Chairman of the Quang Ninh People's Council Nguyen Xuan Ky said the nine-dash line is only included in popular passports, as it has not been found in official passports. "By issuing separate visas, Vietnamese authorities can avoid directly stamping the passports, thus demonstrating Vietnam's stance of not recognizing the nine-dash line in any form," Ky said.

Similarly, a border control officer at Phu Quoc International Airport on Phu Quoc Island, said the airport checks in around 1,000 Chinese tourists every week, and those who carry a nine-dash-line passport are required to fill out a separate entry declaration in order to pass through border checks, as the island has a visa exemption policy for foreign tourists.

A senior officer from the Ho Chi Minh City border police department said Chinese passports have been found containing images of the illegitimate nine-dash line printed on pages 8, 24, and 46 in recent years.

Customs officers at Da Nang International Airport have also confiscated many maps carried by Chinese passengers featuring the nine-dash line, as well as publications where Truong Sa (Spratly) and Hoang Sa (Paracel) archipelagoes are not included in Vietnam's territory.

For any nine-dash line passports that have already been stamped by Vietnamese border control officers by mistake, they will be checked and stamped with the "voided" sign upon the holders' re-entry. (*Tuoi Tre News*)

Vietnam – Australian national caught in HCMC with nearly 5 kg heroin



A Vietnamese Australian was arrested July 24 in Tan Son Nhat Airport when she allegedly attempted to board a flight from Ho Chi Minh City to Australia with nearly 5 kg of heroin in her baggage. Customs and police officers said the heroin was split into 26 bags hidden carefully in her baggage.

The 37-year-old woman, whose name was not revealed, told the police that she would be paid US\$25,000 for the job.

They estimated the value of the smuggled heroin to be as high as \$750,000 once it could reach Australia.

The police said they are investigating further. (*Thanh Niên News*)

Vietnam – Two nabbed for smuggling gold at Hanoi airport

Two Vietnamese passengers have been detained for smuggling three kilograms of gold at an international airport in Hanoi while a technician at the airdrome was also questioned for allegedly abetting the crime.



Hoang Thi Ngoc Anh, 34, who works as a professional flight attendant, and Nguyen Ngoc Sang, 30, were arrested on July 27 by customs officers at Noi Bai International Airport after attempting to smuggle three kilograms, or 80 ounces, of gold, according to the General Department of Vietnam Customs.

The amount of gold was to be transported from the Vietnamese capital to Incheon, South Korea, where it would be sold for profit, they continued.

Sang and Anh had completed the customs procedures and security checks on their cabin

luggage and were ready to depart on flight VN 416 at around 11:40 pm when competent authorities discovered a metal package attached under Sang's seat with a magnet. The package was then found to contain gold.

According to the Customs Office at the airport, the passengers admitted they intended to carry the gold to South Korea without any declaration to customs officers. "The gold has been confiscated and transferred to the municipal Department of Police for investigation," the office added.

A technical employee of the Vietnam Airlines Engineering Company, a subsidiary of national carrier Vietnam Airlines, is now in custody for being involved in the smuggling. (*Tuoi Tre News*)

Vietnam – Vietnam customs officers catch man with rhino horns stashed in luggage

Customs officers at Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City have discovered four rhino horns stashed in powdered milk cans in the luggage of a male passenger.



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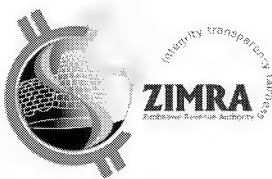
The Vietnamese man, 42, leaving Africa for Vietnam, was captured at the airport on July 31 for further investigation into an animal part smuggling ring via aviation.

After noticing suspicious signs, customs officers and relevant agencies arrested the suspect and checking his luggage, finding four rhino horns cut into pieces and hidden in cans of powdered milk, all stuffed in personal belongings.

The man confessed that the horns were worth VND4.5 billion (US\$201,825). Further investigation is ongoing, police said. (*Tuoi Tre News*)

Zimbabwe – 2 Rwandese in court for \$87K smuggling bid

Two Rwandan nationals appeared in court June 6 after they were caught in possession of \$87,450 at the Harare International Airport, which they wanted to smuggle out of the country.



Charles Rubayita (50) and Alphonsine Mukanyandwi (42) appeared separately before magistrate Mr Tendai Mahwe, facing charges of exporting foreign currency exceeding the prescribed amount (\$1000) Mr Mahwe granted the duo \$500 bail each.

As part of their bail conditions, they were ordered to surrender their passports, reside at their given addresses, report twice every Mondays at police Minerals and Border Control Unit in Harare and not to interfere with State witnesses.

Allegations are that on June 5 at around 2pm, at the Harare International Airport, detectives from Minerals and Border Control Unit placed the duo who wanted to travel on Ethiopian Airways under surveillance after receiving a tip off that they wanted to smuggle cash exceeding the stipulated \$1000.

It is alleged that Rubayita and Mukanyandwi went past the ZIMRA desk and declared nothing. They went past the immigration check point where they presented their passports for stamping of departure stamp.

The court heard that when the duo passed the Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe screening point, the officers confronted them and were taken to a search room where they were searched together with their bags. It is the State's case that the body search recovered \$30,000 in Rubayita's socks and \$50,950 in his hand luggage bringing the total to \$80,950.

From Mukanyandwi, the officers recovered \$4000 from her wallet and \$2500 in her grey handbag, bringing the total to \$6500. The court heard that the \$6500 is well above the stipulated \$1000 which an individual is allowed to take out of the country. (*The Herald*)

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PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK 2016

Shannon Keenlyside, Danielle Getzie, Nova, Nicole Bussanich, Barry Kohli and Whiskey attended the Surrey Tax Centre and Call Centre operation on June 16 to provide a presentation to CRA staff during National Public Service Week.



There were approximately 150-200 employees present, with a group linking in via WebEx from Prince George. The second session was at the Call Centre, Fraser Valley and Northern TSO at Central City, Surrey and approximately 35 employees were there.



CRA supreme warlord Kathleen Libelt commented: "Your officers represented CBSA with the utmost professionalism and outstanding public relations skills. All spoke so eloquently and passionately about their jobs and how they protect Canada on a daily basis as the front line of enforcement. The CRA employees were so engaged and were able to ask questions and interact. Your team did wonders to raise awareness and education for CBSA! It was very clear to us all how much they all love their jobs and are dedicated to their roles. They were so gracious as well to pose for pictures with the many that asked afterward. In short – they were pretty much like rock stars and everyone was thrilled to meet them and connect with them personally."

Cops for Cancer:



(L-R): Bernie Pitura, Lucky Paul, Kevin Charlton, Bunty Meldrum, Frank Donaghy, Nicole Bussanich, Patrick Lai, John Linde.



(L-R) Bunty Meldrum, Patrick Lai, Bernie Pitura, Zaafar Mahmood, Frank Donaghy, Nicole Bussanich.

BSO Patrick Lai participated in shaving his head in support of Cops for Cancer - Tour de Valley 2016. Doctor Lai's participation in the Buzz Cut BBQ generated nearly \$3000, with the highest single donation coming from SBSO Zaafar Mahmood, who split the grand total of \$2564 raised by VIA Traffic and Cargo.

VIA SBSOs graduate.



Sirens for Life Blood Drive



On, July 7, VIA management and BSO Patrick Lai met at a Canadian Blood Services location and, together, donated blood, initiating this exciting and important campaign. We managed to help the clinic collect 66 units, or 103% to their target goal of 64 donations. On this day, the contribution towards blood donation helped the Canadian Blood Services surpass their targeted goal!

(L-R) Lucky Paul, Gary Hara, Patrick Lai, Nicole Goodman, John Linde, Jaspal Rai.

Kick for a Cure 2016:



On July 21, 2016, The Kick for a Cure Initiative and the Michael Cuccione Foundation hosted the Ninth Annual Soccer Tournament at the Coquitlam Town Centre Park. The Kick for a Cure is a childhood cancer initiative that was founded by BSO Nuvin Runghen (pictured at left his son) in order to raise awareness about childhood cancer and pediatric cancer research.



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(L-R:) John Ashikian, Gord Redmond, Chantal Boulet

Bob Pedersen

**Superintendent
CBSA, Vancouver International Airport**

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